

The Public Budget Hearing of the Stafford Township Board of Education was held on April 30, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Oxycocus Elementary School.

CALL TO ORDER

The Stafford Township's Board of Education is called to order in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act Law - 1975 Chapter 231 (P.L. 1975-231C). This meeting was advertised in the Atlantic City Press, Asbury Park Press, and the Beacon. Notice has been posted in the office of the Stafford Township Clerk and all school buildings.

ROLL CALL

Michael Benson	Member
Richard Czajkowski	Member
Michael Hemenway	Member
Kevin Leonard	Member
Deborah Lyons	Member
Beth Sicoli	Member
Sean Wasacz	Member
Tammy Nicolini	Vice President
Wendy Cotter	President

ALSO PRESENT

George J. Chidiac	Superintendent
Margaret Hom	Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary
Laura Benson, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney

FLAG SALUTE

A. PRESENTATION

1. The 2015 – 2016 Budget as presented by George J. Chidiac, Superintendent.

B. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

C. BOARD BUSINESS

1. To adopt the following resolution “Adoption of the Final Budget 2015-2016”:

**ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET
2015-2016**

**Adjustment
Enrollment**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$0. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

**Adjustment
Health Benefits**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increased cost of health benefits in the amount of \$0. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits.

**Adjustment
PERS Pension**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for deferral of the PERS pension cost and the additional interest incurred in the amount of \$0. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for the purpose of paying the additional interest charges.

**Adjustment
Responsibility Transferred**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increase (decrease) of costs associated with the transfer of responsibilities in the amount of \$0. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for increase (decrease) for the costs.

**Adjustment
Banked Cap**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$182,726 for the purpose of a new math curriculum. This program was piloted during the 2014-2015 school year. This program is necessary to align our district with the Common Core State Standards. This program needs to be implemented next year in order to better prepare students for the PARCC mandate and to offer a unified Math Curriculum district wide. The district did not make our annual progress targets in March for last year and we have been spending significant funds on supplemental materials because the current math program does not match the Common Core. Our approved action plan references the necessary replacement of a district wide Math series. If we attempted to gradually implement this program we would outlast the series useful life and, therefore, have concluded that this purchase must be made this year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2016.

**Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal
ROD GRANT – McKinley Window Replacement 5020-060-14-1007 (\$155,650)**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education requests the approval a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$155,650. The district intends to utilize these funds for the purpose of local shares for three ROD grants at the McKinley Avenue and Oxycocus Elementary Schools.

**Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal
Other**

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education requests the approval of a capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$652,252 for the following work to be done at the McKinley Avenue Elementary School: hot water heater replacement, additional electric, refurbishment of gym, bathrooms, storage areas and miscellaneous HVAC/Electrical/Life Safety upgrades.

Capital Reserve Account Deposit

RESOLVED that the Stafford Township Board of Education requests the approval a capital reserve deposit in the amount of \$0 for the balance of the Local Share. The district intends to utilize these funds for the balance of the first three ROD grants listed above at the McKinley Avenue and Oxycoccus Elementary Schools.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2015-2016**

WHEREAS, the Stafford Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq, but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$50,000 for all staff and board members.

**Adoption of Tentative Budget
2015-2016**

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2015-2016 School Year using the 2015-2016 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2015-16 Total Expenditures	35,958,623	1,186,339	2,896,941	40,041,903
Less: Anticipated Revenues	10,797,931	1,186,339	384,790	12,369,060
Taxes to be Raised	25,160,692		2,512,151	27,672,843

2. To approve the attached tuition rates for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

A motion was made by Kevin Leonard and seconded by Beth Sicoli to approve Board Business item(s) #1-2. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

D. CLOSED SESSION (If Necessary)

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tammy Nicolini and seconded by Michael Hemenway to adjourn the meeting at 6:13pm. Roll call vote: nine (9) members present voted yes; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE - STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Stafford Township Board of Education welcomes the opportunity to hear what members of the public have to say about matters of public interest. However, we do have specific procedures in place for you to bring your concerns to the proper personnel. We refer to this as the chain of command. For example, if you have a concern involving something within the classroom, we would ask that you first speak to the teacher, and if necessary, the principal. If you have not utilized the chain of command, we would ask that you please do so prior to addressing your concerns in this meeting so that the district personnel are given the opportunity to resolve these matters to your satisfaction. If, after utilizing the chain of command, you feel your concerns have not been addressed, we welcome you to return to the next Board meeting to voice your concern. If you have any questions about the chain of command (or the appropriate person to whom you should address your concern), please feel free to ask any member of the Board at the break or when this meeting concludes. We would also like to make you aware that there are certain matters that the Board can only discuss in closed session. Thus, if your comments touch upon an issue that is only to be discussed in closed session or one where certain notices must be provided prior to the Board conducting any discussions, the Board will not be able to respond to your comments at this time. We will inform you if this is the case when you have finished speaking. Specifically, this situation may arise if you are discussing a particular employee (or employees) of the district or a particular student (or students).

Margaret Hom
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

MH/km/5-4-2015