

**MINE HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**PUBLIC HEARING OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL BUDGET**  
**March 29, 2010**

Opening Statement

The Special Meeting of the Mine Hill Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:35 PM on March 29, 2010, by Board President Mary Jo Walilko. Adequate notice of the date and time for this meeting was advertised in the Daily Record on March 16, 2010, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mrs. Walilko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Patricia Hernandez, Steve Hoh, Margo Maher, Bridget Mauro and Mary Jo Walilko

**Absent:** Caryn Battaglia and Anthony Novelli

**Also Present:** Julia Coyne, Katine Slunt, members of the public and Ernest Palestis.

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Palestis welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Dr. Palestis presented the **2010-2011 School Budget**. (see attached)

Board Discussion/Reports-None

Business Administrator's Report

- Katine Slunt distributed the breakdown of the 2010-2011 School Budget to the members of the Board. (see attached)

Public Discussion

- Sam Morris expressed concerns with the shared services in regards to continuity. Dr. Palestis indicated that he was encouraging Morris Hills to look at current Mine Hill staff to address that issue.
- Mr. Morris asked about the possibility of the number of choice students increasing for the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Palestis stated that a letter has been sent to Assemblyman Anthony Bucco asking for more state aid and/or increasing the number of choice students allowed. State aid would not adversely impact any other Morris County district as Mine Hill is the only choice school district in the county.

- Mr. Morris asked about the spending cap. Dr. Palestis indicated that the County Business Administrator would not allow Mine Hill to go above the 4.0% cap. Based on our below adequacy spending Mine Hill should have been allowed to go higher than 4.0%. Next year the cap will be 2.5% and Dr. Palestis stressed that it will have a huge impact on school budgets.
- Mr. Morris expressed his concern about the use of Everyday Math at Canfield Avenue School. Dr. Palestis indicated that the Mine Hill Township Board of Education supports the use of the program and the standardized tests scores indicate its success.
- Mr. Morris asked about the procedure if the budget is defeated. Dr. Palestis stated that additional cuts outlined in the budget presentation will be looked into.
- Mr. Morris asked if any incentives will be offered to teachers that are near retirement. Dr. Palestis indicated that the Board was not sure of any at this time.
- Christine Halls asked if any funds for the Gifted and Talented program were allocated in the 2010-2011 school budget. Katine Slunt indicated that there were supply funds similar to the funds allocated for the current school year. Mrs. Halls asked how the funds would be used and Dr. Palestis indicated that the teachers will use them as they are this year.
- Mike Robinson inquired about the rationale of the elimination of one homeroom of grade six. Dr. Palestis stated that, although regrettable, the larger class size would have less impact on the older children. Mary Jo Walilko added that the Board also took into consideration easing the students' transition to middle school as the class sizes are generally larger.
- Peggy Healey asked about the Dover Middle School and Dover High School late buses. The Board indicated that one of the buses will be eliminated for a savings of around \$10,000.00. There will be one late bus that will do both the Middle School and High School runs.
- Mrs. Healey asked about the cost of replacing the reading program as indicated in the budget presentation. The Board responded it would be approximately \$20,000 and Dr. Palestis added that the benefits of one cohesive program will have a positive effect on the students at Canfield Avenue School.
- Mrs. Healey asked if her understanding that if the budget was defeated the town council would indicate an amount to cut and the Board would decide what additional items to eliminate was correct. Dr. Palestis confirmed she was correct.
- Kris Kanzenbach asked about the number of teachers being eliminated. Ernest Palestis stated that it is hard to determine at this point because of tenure and seniority.
- Ms. Kanzenbach expressed interest about potentially being able to keep a teaching position and eliminating the guidance position. Dr. Palestis indicated that due to the changes to the Child Study Team for next year it was important to keep the guidance position for the benefit of the students.

He added however that if the budget is defeated the position is on the list of additional cuts.

- Janet Grecco asked if the Mine Hill Township School District had any opportunity to increase the number of students attending Roxbury High School. Dr. Palestis indicated that the number of students they will accept is set by state law.
- Brett Coranato inquired about the renting of classroom space. Mary Jo Walilko responded that Wharton rents the classroom occupied by the PRIDE program. The Mine Hill Educational Foundation rents space as well and also makes countless donations to improve the Canfield Avenue School facilities and the education of our students.
- Mary Jo Walilko stressed to everyone that the Mine Hill Township Board of Education has consistently made strong efforts every year to keep the tax impact as low as possible and even in some instances giving back. Mrs. Walilko expressed her thanks for everyone's support and attendance at the meeting. Mrs. Walilko stated that the budget will be accessible on the Canfield Avenue School web page.

FINANCE

Steve Hoh, Patricia Hernandez

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Mary Jo Walilko, the Board approved the following resolution to **approve the final 2010-2011 school budget:**

WHEREAS the Superintendent, in consultation with teachers, parents, school and district administrators, and other interested persons, has developed a budget for the operation of the Mine Hill Township School District for the 2010-2011 school year, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the proposed budget and determined that the program and resources provided are necessary for the thorough and efficient operation of the school district, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve and authorize the submission of the final budget for the 2010-2011 school year, including any changes made this evening, to the County Superintendent for State approval. Detailed budgets are available in the Board Office for public view, on or about March 29, 2010.

General Fund	\$ 7,886,422
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 230,159
Debt Service Fund	\$ 209,175
<b>Total Base Budget</b>	<b>\$ 8,325,756</b>

FURTHER RESOLVED, to acknowledge that the 2010-2011 budget as described above results in a general fund tax levy of \$5,722,545 and debt service in the amount of \$209,175 for a total tax levy of \$5,931,720 and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school district Policy 9250, Expenses and Reimbursement, and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b), provide that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2010-2011 school year.

That the District Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2010-2011 school year not to exceed \$25,000, and

That the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

#### CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Steve Hoh at 9:00 PM, the Board approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: (select one or more)

- 1) *a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law*
- 2) *a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds*
- 3) *material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy*
- 4) ***a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it***
- 5) *a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds*
- 6) *protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law*

- 7) *pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege*
- 8) *specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session*
- 9) *deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

***Note: This closed session will include items in categories 4. It may be adjourned while business is conducted in public then reconvened after public business has been completed.***

#### RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher at 9:11PM, the Board returned to the regular session meeting.

Public Discussion-None

#### ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Steve Hoh, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes- Motion Carried