

**THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING/BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, BOROUGH OF RINGWOOD, NEW JERSEY
HELD AT MARTIN J. RYERSON ON MARCH 28, 2011**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Tassitano at 7:02 P.M.

- A. President Tassitano led everyone in the flag salute.
- B. Board Secretary Mitchell read the Sunshine Law Statement as required under the Open Public Meetings Act.
- C. *Roll Call*

Janet Citrango	- absent	Sam Nastory	- present
Gina Donatien	- present	Richard Schaefer	- present
Melissa Griegel	- present	Ronald Schiavello	- present
Lynne Klosowski	- present	President Tassitano	- present
Katy McKeever	- present		

Also present:
Warren C. Mitchell, SBA/BS
Hugh E. Beattie, Superintendent

Superintendent Beattie presented the Ringwood Pride Award to Noah LiDestri, a third grade student at Peter Cooper School, for his accomplishments in the Mastery Club.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET for the Ringwood School District for the 2011-2012 academic year.

BUDGET
PRESENT-
ATION

Superintendent Beattie distributed a handout to the Board and the public on the Proposed Budget for the 2011-2012 Academic year. He gave a detailed explanation of the Revenues vs the Expenditures for the school district. He explained that the local school tax levy could be seen as a government service, an investment that has a far-reaching impact on the children and residents of the community. It is directly related to the community's property values, quality of life, and social fabric. He stressed that all these items are directly related to the strength of the local school district. As he pointed out in his handout, most of the district's funds comes from our local tax levy. The rest of the revenue formula is broken down from Federal Aid, Local Funding (money the district may receive from Skylands for room rental and money the district receives from busing), State Aid and the Fund Balance (money that's carried over from the previous year). Superintendent Beattie then reviewed the expenditures which include General Current Expenditure, Capital Expenditures, State Projects – Non-Public, Federal Projects, and Debt Service. He reviewed the particular line items that make up the 2011-2012 Appropriations.

Superintendent Beattie explained the differences in the Budget figures between the 2010-2011 school year and the 2011-2012 school year. As to what it means to the average taxpayer in Ringwood, on a home assessed at the Borough average of \$355,530, the increase in school tax would be \$45.00 more a year in 2011-2012. He explained that we had help this year in planning the budget, as there will be 4 retirements in the teaching staff and 2 retirements in the transportation staff. State Aid also increased \$202,000 for the 2011-2012 year. He went on to explain the differences that would occur between passing the Budget and not passing the Budget. Superintendent Beattie commented that he had reviewed the past 15 years of the Budget Vote in Ringwood, and found that 60% of them had passed. We need to see an improvement in commitment to doing the right thing for our children and doing the right thing for our school district.

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PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET continued

He stressed the most important reasons for passing the budget were as follows: A high quality school district is directly linked to higher property values; Our students need to be able to compete academically with other local districts; We need to grow in our tradition of excellence and promote pride in our local learning community; We need to provide our students with a well rounded education that exposes them to a variety of learning experiences and prepares them to be vibrant citizens in the 21st Century; and above all, Our Children Deserve The Best. It is very important for the community to support our schools as it shows the children that they have a great support system in our town. It encourages them to work harder. We don't want to take away things that our children need, whether it is in the field of technology, art or music. We want to give them the opportunity to become productive citizens and share this support with their children, as you as a community, are supporting them now.

In closing, Superintendent Beattie reminded everyone how important it was to cast their vote. The children can't vote about the future of their education but he believed that if they could vote, they would vote for whatever it took to help their schools and keep them in top condition. He was asking the community to vote and be the voice of the children and to show pride in our schools. Superintendent Beattie then addressed questions from the Public. Board Secretary Mitchell addressed the questions concerning the busing in the district. In preparing this budget, he commented that the district tried to maintain all the programs we currently have for our students. Superintendent Beattie thanked the public for attending and if they had other questions they would like to address at a later time, to feel free to contact him.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

PUB.PART.I

No comment

Motion was made by **Trustee Klosowski**, seconded by **Trustee Donatien** to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 P.M.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvened in Public Session at 8:40 P.M.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPT.RPT.

Superintendent Beattie reported on the Robert Erskine Earth Day "Book Swap" which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th. During the week of April 11th, students can bring up to 5 books to donate to the Book Swap. Books can be fiction or non-fiction, hardcover or paperback. Books must be in good condition and at the reading level of the grade the student is in. The student's homeroom teacher will determine if the book fits the criteria for the Book Swap. On Wednesday, April 20th, during school hours, students will have an opportunity to exchange the books they bring in for different ones to take home. Bring in one book, take one book, bring two books, take two books, etc. (up to 5 book maximum) If a student cannot find a book they would like to bring home, he or she will be encouraged to select a book to donate to one of 3 charity organizations.

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V. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BD. PRES.RPT

President Tassitano reminded everyone that the DARE Graduation is on April 14th. The REF Tricky Tray will be on April 21st. Discussion ensued concerning a table and gift basket.
The Referendum Public Meeting is on April 20th at 7:30 PM and it will be held at the Hewitt School.

VI. SBA/BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

BD.SECY.RPT

Board Secretary Mitchell commented on the resolution to approve the Application to change Hewitt School Custodian/Maintenance Room to a temporary library will be submitted to the Department of Education Facility this week.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

CORRES.

President Tassitano shared an e-mail she received from a parent expressing her surprise that the school district did not allow our students to have handheld laptop ipad devices to be used in the Middle School. She believed that preparing students for this century requires us to insure that they understand how to conduct searches on the internet, access and evaluate information, engage in meaningful and responsible use of social media and communicate locally and globally and use technology to create.

President Tassitano commented that it is part of what is on the Referendum regarding libraries and research, moving forward into the 21st Century with technology. This parent works in the Morris School District and has put out there for us to view their English Curriculum for sharing information. Board discussion ensued.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA MOTIONS

A. Minutes

MINUTES

Motion was made by **Trustee Griegel**, seconded by **Trustee Donatien** to approve the following minutes:

February 23, 2011	Work Session Meeting
February 23, 2011	Executive Session
February 28, 2011	Business Meeting
February 28, 2011	Executive Session

Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote by members present.

Sheet # 4 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

B. Consent Agenda Motions

CONSENT
MOTIONS

The following items are deemed to be non-controversial and/or confirmation of negotiated contractual obligations or other state-mandated deadline actions, and/or were discussed in depth at the prior meeting. The Superintendent will highlight key information. Items of concern may be pulled from this portion of the agenda and voted upon separately, or may be considered in the Discussion/Action section if any Board member so wishes.

1. Motion was made by **Trustee Donatien**, seconded by **Trustee Schaefer** to approve the following **consent agenda items**: C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2, E3, E4, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, G2, G4, G5.

Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote by members present.

C. Finance

FINANCE

1. Approve the **Certification Resolution** as follows:

The School Business Administrator and the Board of Education having certified that, to best of their knowledge, no major budget account nor other funds have been over expended and that sufficient funds will be available to meet all financial obligations for the 2010-2011 school year, pending receipt of approved anticipated budgeted monies, accept said report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(c).

2. Authorize the payment of the **District Bills** in the amounts listed, as attached.

DIST.BILLS

District Bills	for March 2011	in the amount of \$733,256.78
Cafeteria Bills	for February 2011	in the amount of \$ 33,982.92

3. Approve the Ringwood School District **Payroll** in the amounts listed.

PAYROLL

For February 15, 2011	in the amount of \$611,649.41
For February 28, 2011	in the amount of \$608,712.96

4. Approve the **Board Secretary's Report** for February 2011.

BD.SECY.RPT
2/11

5. Approve the **Treasurer's Report** for February 2011.

TREAS.RPT.
2/11

6. Approve **Transfers** for the month of February 2011.

TRANSFERS
2/11

Sheet # 5 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

Finance continued

7. **WHEREAS**, the Ringwood Board of Education elected to defer \$100,793 of the April 2009 **PERS Pension** obligation under S-21, Chapter 19, P.L. 2009;

PERS
PENSION
OBLIGATION

AND WHEREAS, the district applied for a deferral schedule which will start in April 2012 and continue for 15 years to repay the deferred portion to the retirement system;

AND WHEREAS, the Ringwood Board of Education in completing their 2011-2012 School Budget directed the School Business Administrator to include the necessary funding in the budget to pay this outstanding obligation in full;

AND WHEREAS, the Ringwood Board of Education directs the Business Administrator to contact the Division of Pensions and Benefits to obtain the present day value of our 2009 PERS Pension Obligation (As of July 1, 2010, the present value of our 2009 PERS Pension Obligation was \$114,440.);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ringwood Board of Education that:

It hereby approves the School Business Administrator to pay the 2009 PERS Pension Obligation to the retirement system in full in the amount of the present value of the obligation at the time payment is issued.

D. Personnel

1. Approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of the following as **Substitute Personnel** for the 2010-2011 school year, pending completion of all State and Board employment requirements and approval of application to the County Superintendent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 6-7.2 et seq.

SUB.
PERSONNEL

COUNTY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

David Bright
Jonathan Lackey
Michael Maskileyson

STATE SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Amanda Lokai
Donn Reeves
Jordanna Spaulding
Dana Ann Swartz-Brown

PARAPROFESSIONALS

Alicia Downey
Dana Ann Swarts-Brown

ABA THERAPISTS

Dana Ann Swarts-Brown

SECRETARY

Alicia Downey

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Personnel continued

2. Approve, with regret, the acceptance of the resignation, of **Mary Robin Unger** from her current position as a Paraprofessional at Robert Erskine School, effective March 7, 2011. Ms. Unger's last day worked was March 4, 2011. UNGER RESIGN.
 3. Approve the appointment of the following personnel to work in the listed positions for the 2011 summer **Safety Town Program**. Stipend salaries and miscellaneous expenses are paid through the registration fee. SAFETY TOWN
- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Cynthia Cison | Head Teacher | \$1,256.71 |
| Kimberly Dalton | 2 nd Teacher | \$ 800.00 |
| Susan Kapsis | Coordinator/Secretary | \$ 800.00 |

E. Curriculum/Instruction

1. Approve special education **student #2903** to receive four (4) 60-minute sessions/week of physical therapy, per the IEP, provided by S&S Therapeutics, Inc., at the rate of \$110.80/session, in an amount not to exceed \$7,534.40, effective March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011. #2903 PT S & S
2. Approve special education **student #2903** to receive four (4) 60-minute sessions/week of occupational therapy, per the IEP, provided by S&S Therapeutics, Inc., at the rate of \$110.80/session, in an amount not to exceed \$7,534.40, effective March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011. #2903 OT S & S
3. Approve special education **student #2903** to receive four (4) 60-minute sessions/week of speech therapy, per the IEP, provided by Nancy Minunni, at the rate of \$90.00/session, in an amount not to exceed \$6,120.00, effective March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011. #2903 SPEECH MINUNNI
4. Approve special education student **#2903** to receive twelve (12) compensatory sessions of Physical Therapy, as per the IEP, provided by S&S Therapeutics, Inc., at the rate of \$110.80/session, at an amount not to exceed \$1,329.60, effective March 7, 2011 through June 30, 2011, due to loss of prior services as a result of an injury. #2903 COMPENS PT S & S

F. District Operations

2. Approve the Touch Football League of Ringwood to use the **Hewitt School Field** for four home game dates on Sundays during the months of April, May and June, 2011. This League (made up of Ringwood residents 18 years and older) has prior approval from the Ringwood Recreation Board for athletic activities at the Hewitt School pending Board of Education approval. A Certificate of Liability will be on file prior to the first game. HEWITT FIELD TOUCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
3. Approve the Ringwood Board of Education to become a member of the **Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System** as per the attached resolution and agreement. MRESC COOP.

Sheet # 7 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

District Operations continued

- 4. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ringwood Board of Education approve the authorization for the Business Administrator to **advertise for the solicitation of sealed bids** for the following: (1) type "C" 54 Passenger School Bus, 2011 Model or newer, Diesel Engine, Conventional, for the 2010 – 2011 school year. This will replace Bus #79 – 2003 - 54 passenger Bluebird TC2000 – which needs an engine replacement. SOLICIT BIDS
- 5. Approve, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution to adopt the **2011-2012 District Budget** as follows: 2011-2012 BUDGET

The school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the core curriculum content standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ringwood Board of Education, County of Passaic, that the 2011-2012 District Budget be approved. This tax levy represents a 1.9499% increase over last year. The 2011-2012 tax levy will enable the district to maintain the educational and support services needed to ensure the students receive a thorough and efficient education.

GENERAL FUND	\$	20,287,341
BUDGETED FUND BALANCE	\$	147,806
WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE	\$	33,099
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$	664,925
TRANSFER FROM BOND REFERENDUM	\$	52,800
REGULAR DEBT SERVICE	\$	130,150
TOTAL BUDGET	\$	21,316,121

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY be approved to support the 2011-2012 District Budget:

GENERAL FUND	\$	15,934,379
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- 6. Approve the submission of an application to the New Jersey Department of Education School Facilities for the renovation work to **convert the custodial/maintenance room** at the E. G. Hewitt School to a usable educational space that will serve as a temporary library. SUBMISSION APPLICATION HEWITT ROOM
- 7. Approve the attached resolution, whereas, the Board of Education of the Ringwood Public School District desires to proceed with a school facilities project consisting generally of: Addition and Alterations to Eleanor G. Hewitt School. HEWITT RESOLUTION PROCEED PROJECT

Sheet # 8 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

G. General

- 2. Approve the acceptance of the **Agreement between the Ringwood Board of Education and the Ringwood Bus Drivers Association**, including the salary guides, for the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013. RINGWOOD
BUS DRIVERS
AGREEMENT

- 4. **APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF RELATED TRAVEL EXPENSES** TRAVEL

RESOLVED, that the Ringwood Board of Education approves the following employees to attend the conferences/workshops which are being held on the dates and in the locations indicated below; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated functions was previously approved by the Superintendent of Schools as work related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendees and the school district’s professional developmental plan; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the functions was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district and is deemed fiscally prudent, and
Board of Education March 28, 2011 Budget Hearing/Business Meeting Agenda

WHEREAS, the travel and related expenses particular to attendance at these functions will be in compliance with state travel payment guidelines established by the Department of Treasury and the federal Office of Management and Budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Ringwood Township Board of Education approves these attendances; and
Board of Education March 28, 2011 Budget Hearing/Business Meeting Agenda

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the reimbursement of the related travel expenses shall be in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines:

EMPLOYEE NAME	WORKSHOP DATE	WORKSHOP NAME & LOCATION	REG. \$	LODGING \$	TRAVEL \$	EST. TOTAL \$
Bredin, J.	4-26-11	Sensory Modulation & Intergration, Saddle Brook, NJ	179.00	-0-	-0-	179.00 + sub pay
Citro, A.	4-14-11	I & RS Training, Paramus, NJ	-0-	-0-	24.48	24.48
Hrasdzira, O.	4-27-11	Socially Speaking..., Saddle Brook, NJ	179.00	-0-	6.24	185.24
Sutcliffe, M.	5-2-11	ESL Curriculum Dev., Hamilton, NJ	-0-	-0-	37.20	37.20

* Depending on availability, "sub pay" can be \$80 to \$246 for the school day.

Sheet # 9 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

General continued

5. Approve the 2011-2012 Ringwood School District **Professional Development Plan** and its submission to the Passaic County Office of the New Jersey State Department of Education. PROF
DEVEL
PLAN

H. Policy

No report.

POLICY

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

SPECIAL
REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – The Budget Committee had its last meeting last week, and we had our Budget Presentation this evening. President Tassitano asked that everyone support our Budget. There are forums that will be scheduled at the Ryerson School to address the Budget.
- B. Curriculum Committee – Trustee Griegel updated the Board on the Curriculum Committee meetings. They touched on topics of Technology and Literacy.
- C. Facilities Committee – Trustee Schaefer updated the Board on the Facilities Committee. President Tassitano mentioned that we need to get out there and promote the Referendum Public meeting on April 20th. Board discussion ensued.
- D. Public Communications Committee – Trustee McKeever updated the Board on Exhibit night, facebook, and the newsletter. Superintendent Beattie commented on the newsletter.
- E. Tri-District Shared Services – No Report
- F. Liaisons – Trustee Schaefer commented on the technology in the district and suggested he get together with the Superintendent to see where we are as of today.

Board Secretary Mitchell reminded the Committee Chairpersons that they need to submit their reports to the Board Office. These committee minutes shall become an integral part of the formal board minutes.

Sheet # 10 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

X. OLD BUSINESS

OLD
BUSINESS

It was mentioned that the some of the Board members did not like having meetings in the cafeteria as they could not hear everything that is talked about. They felt that with the amount of people that appear at the Board meetings, they could still have it in the media center. Board discussion ensued.

There was discussion concerning the May meeting dates.

Trustee McKeever commented on the school calendar for 2011-2012. Board discussion ensued.

Motion was made by **Trustee Donatien**, seconded by **Trustee McKeever** to rescind the the approval of the 2011-2012 school year calendar.

CONSENT
MOTIONS

Motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Janet Citrango	- absent	Sam Nastory	- no
Gina Donatien	- yes	Richard Schaefer	- yes
Melissa Griegel	- yes	Ronald Schiavello	- yes
Lynne Klosowski	- abstain	President Tassitano	- yes
Katy McKeever	- yes		

Motion was made by **Trustee Donatien**, seconded by **Trustee McKeever** to approve the 2011-2012 revised school year calendar to include February 21 as a full day off and then to build that day back in as a full day of instruction on June 18, with a half day of instruction on June 19 and June 20. The last day of school would be June 20, 2011.

Motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Janet Citrango	- absent	Sam Nastory	- no
Gina Donatien	- yes	Richard Schaefer	- yes
Melissa Griegel	- yes	Ronald Schiavello	- yes
Lynne Klosowski	- yes	President Tassitano	- yes
Katy McKeever	- yes		

Trustee Klosowski questioned the status of the books concerning the history of Ringwood. As of today, this project is on hold in the Borough.

Trustee Griegel commented that the meeting schedule had another change since school would be closed on February 21. The meeting schedule would be adjusted.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

NEW
BUSINESS

A. How is the Board progressing toward District goals?

No report.

Sheet # 11 – Budget Hearing/Business Meeting, March 28, 2011

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

PUB.PART.II

Carrie Odgers thanked the Board for approving the PERS Pension Obligation to be paid in full.

- XIII.** Motion was made by **Trustee Donatien**, seconded by **Trustee Nastory** to adjourn from Public Session at 9:43 P.M. ADJOURN.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN C. MITCHELL
Board Secretary

WCM/jm