

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 8, 2018
Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

The mission of the Freehold Township Schools, in partnership with our community, is to prepare all students to be responsible citizens and life long learners.

The Freehold Township Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 8, 2018, at the Board Office of the Freehold Township School District, 384 West Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey, County of Monmouth.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Levy read the following statement in conformance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", Chapter 231, PL1975, effective January 19, 1976:

"A notice listing the time, date and place of this meeting was posted on the public bulletin board of all Freehold Township Schools, on the entrance door to the Administrative Offices of the Board of Education, on the district website, at the Office of the Freehold Township Clerk, and published in the Asbury Park Press on January 10, 2018 and sent to the News Transcript on January 8, 2018."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Levy led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mr. Amoroso, Mrs. Cozzolino, Mr. DiBlasio, Mrs. Holtz, Mr. Matthews, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Levy

Board Members Absent:

Also Present:

Dr. Ross Kasun, Superintendent; Mr. Neal Dickstein, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Pamela Nathan, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Robert DeVita, Business Administrator; Ilene Tepper, Assistant Business Administrator; staff members; township residents.

COMMUNICATION - None

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS - Mr. Levy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the Board members that he, Mr. Amoroso, Mrs. Lambert and Mr. De Vita met with the insurance broker the night before to discuss moving to a self-insured model for both medical and prescription for 18-19. The broker would present to the Board and public on March 27 to discuss the concept further.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - Dr. Kasun commented that in this budget process there were a number of new competing wants. Due to the restrictions of the 2% tax levy cap it would be difficult to fulfill them all. He asked that the expertise of the Admin team be relied on to manage these competing wants.

Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Klym presented on the benefits of expanding the Early Childhood Learning Center to a full day pre-school program from its current half-day status.

Mr. De Vita updated the Board on the outstanding issues from the previous budget presentation. He then discussed the cuts necessary to bring the budget into balance due to the 20% renewal rate for health benefits. The Board then asked questions of the Administration regarding the proposed budget. The Board then discussed their positions on the tax levy for 18-19 and using banked cap for improvements for security.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Courtney Katz, 1 Woods Road, advocated for the pre-school expansion to a full day program to help more kids. Mrs. Katz's son attends the ECLC and she has seen a transformation in him because of the inclusion classroom and working with a certified teacher. Because of this he was not in a self-contained classroom.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - Mr. Levy reminded the Board that on March 13 they had a Board meeting at 8 PM with committees meeting before the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Diblasio and seconded by Mrs. Patten, and by unanimous voice vote of those present, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert DeVita
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
RD:aw