

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
 MINUTES
 PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2013**

Mr. David Richards, Board President, called to order the Preliminary Budget Hearing Meeting of the Board of Education on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the Westbrook School Media Center. He led the flag salute, read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement and asked for a moment of silence in honor of the service men and women from West Milford who are stationed around the world, especially those who have lost their lives defending our freedom and the American way of life. Mr. Richards reminded everyone in attendance to silence or turn off their cell phones and note the locations of the emergency exits. The Board reserved the right to act on any and all agenda items.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public notice of this meeting has been sent to Board Members, all district Schools, the Herald News, the Trends, the Record, Aim West Milford, the Messenger, West Milford Town Hall, the County Superintendent's Office, the Board Attorney, and Cablevision of Warwick; and posted in the Administration Building with a copy in the district's monitoring files. Copies of the Board Meeting Calendar Resolution were provided to all local media, Town Hall, Township Library, and all district schools.

ROLL CALL BY BOARD SECRETARY, MS. BARBARA FRANCISCO:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mr. Babbitt	Absent	Mr. Foody	Present	Mr. Richards	Present
Mr. Bailey	Absent	Mr. Gottlieb	Present	Mrs. Richards	Present
Mr. Conlon	Present/Arr. 7:39 p.m.	Mrs. Koeppe	Present	Mrs. Schultz	Present

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Dr. James V. McLaughlin	Superintendent of Schools	Present
Ms. Barbara Francisco	Board Secretary/Business Administrator	Present
Ms. Iris Wechling	Director of Education	Present
Mrs. Alice Steinheimer	Director of Special Services	Present
Joseph L. Roselle, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney	Absent
Katie Schiller	Student Representative	N/A

There were approximately 9 members of the public in attendance.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

There was no Executive Session.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. James V. McLaughlin

Dr. McLaughlin remarked as follows relative to the preliminary budget:

At the request of the Board, Ms. Francisco has prepared a budget with a minimal tax increase. The slide presentation highlights the areas that were adjusted to minimize budget increases.

He applauded the Board for their careful and cautious approach to creating this budget. He is confident that the final budget that the Board approves will be a responsible economic plan that utilizes the resources provided by our community in a responsible manner.

He requested recognition that our district has a plan of progress and a blueprint for increased achievement. The tools required for learning are changing, particularly in the area of technology - which offers great promise, but also significant expense. Our district has also recognized the social and emotional supports that our children require - this translates to the employment of skilled personnel that can intervene with students at an early age, giving them the greatest opportunity for success, achievement and happiness in the school environment.

He hopes that the Board is open to making adjustments that would restore some of the areas that have been reduced from the original budget request made by our principals, directors and supervisors.

He asked that the public recognize the imposing challenge for the members of the Board of Education who must weigh the resources requested from our community, but also consider the expectation of our community for excellence in its public school system - a public school system that attracts families to the Township of West Milford and meets the needs of those students who attend our schools using standards of excellence and best practice.

Mr. Foody commented on the distribution of the agenda as it related to the Open Public Meetings Act.

VIII. SPECIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE - Mrs. Barbara Francisco, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

Ms. Francisco provided a presentation of the 2013-2014 District Preliminary Budget and explained the budget. Mrs. Francisco answered questions from the Board members.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mr. David Richards

Mr. Richards asked if we received a response from the letter to Nancy Gage regarding the formation of a Joint Committee with the Mayor and Council.

X. PETITIONS & REQUESTS

Petitioners who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be first with five (5) minutes for each petitioner, for a period of thirty (30) minutes; and then time permitting, other petitions and requests limited to five (5) minutes per petitioner will be allowed, until the thirty (30) minute period transpires. Petitioners are asked to address topics listed in the agenda. All speakers are asked to give their full name, spell their last name, and provide their address. Speakers may not use the names of students during Petitions and Requests.

Motion by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to close Petitions and Requests.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

IX. MOTION BY MR. CONLON, SECONDED BY MRS. SCHULTZ, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

X. BUDGET & FINANCE/TRANSPORTATION/OPERATIONS/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - Mr. Gregory Bailey, Chairperson

Motion by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mrs. Schultz, to approve the following agenda item:

- 1. The recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following resolution to adopt the 2013-2014 DISTRICT PRELIMINARY BUDGET as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Milford Township Board of Education, County of Passaic, that the 2013-2014 District Preliminary Budget be approved as follows:

General Fund	\$ 69,879,117
Special Revenue	\$ 1,342,535
Debt Service	\$ 538,324
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 71,759,976

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following GENERAL FUND AND DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVIES be approved to support the 2013-2014 Preliminary Budget:

General Fund	\$ 52,002,781
Debt Service	\$ 493,553
TOTAL	\$ 52,496,334

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve for Other Capital Projects is \$145,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in budget line 76320, Capital Reserve Transfer to Capital Projects is \$145,000 for Other Capital Projects.

X. BUDGET & FINANCE/TRANSPORTATION/OPERATIONS/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - Mr. Bailey, Chairperson - Continued

1. (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in budget line 630, Budgeted Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve for Budgeted Required Maintenance is \$150,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Education approved "tentative" budget is being presented for advertising prior to Executive County Superintendent approval. The budget will be approved by the Executive County Superintendent prior to the public hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the budget is in conformity with regulations promulgated by the Department of Education and the Board of Education has submitted supporting documents to the state for maximum professional services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to make any adjustments to the budget submission to bring it in conformity with state regulations. Adjustments will be reviewed and approved by the Board at the Public Budget Hearing.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Richards requested that \$250,000 be added to the budget for books and instructional supplies.

Mr. Conlon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gottlieb, to accept Mr. Richards' recommendation to insert \$250,000 into the budget for instructional supplies and textbooks.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS REVISED:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Babbitt	Absent	Mr. Foody	No	Mr. Richards	Yes
Mr. Bailey	Absent	Mr. Gottlieb	Yes	Mrs. Richards	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Abstained	Mrs. Koeppe	Yes	Mrs. Schultz	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED:** 5 Yes; 1 No; 1 Abstention

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Mrs. Schultz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Francisco
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

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