

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET RETREAT MEETING
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 2016
HELD AT THE HEGELEIN BUILDING, 500 TENAFLY RD., TENAFLY, NJ

DATE 3/15/16
APPROVED [Signature]

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The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Board President Lynne W. Stewart who read the following statement:

"The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right to the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon."

In accordance with provisions of this act, the Tenafly Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the Borough office, Tenafly Public Library, administrative building, in the local press and on the district's web site.

On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

Stephanie Addison-Fontaine *	Edward J. Salaski
Mark Aronson	April Uram
Sam A. Bruno	Eileen D. Pleva
Janet I. Horan	Lynne W. Stewart
Sherri Rothstein	

* Arrived at 6:41 p.m.

The following staff members were present:

Ms. Lynn Trager, Superintendent
Ms. Barbara Laudicina, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Yas Usami, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board President Stewart opened the meeting.

The 2016-2017 Budget Ideas were presented by the administrative team. The budget supports the following:

Chromebook Initiative

Expanding to grades 9-12 classrooms. Chromebooks using VDI platform in the 8th grade have been well received by students, staff and administrators. The Chromebooks and carts will be purchased this year to avoid delays in having them ready in September. The next phase of Chromebooks and carts for grades 6 and 7, and elementary schools will follow a similar purchasing timeframe in 2016-2017. It is anticipated that Bright Lights, TEF and HSAs will support the initiative with donations.

Early Childhood Learning Center (Tiger Tots)

A program for 3-5 year old children will begin in the fall. There will be collaboration with the high school child development classes. Currently, 15 students are registered and the district has reached a breakeven point for the program. This is a self-funding program that should not require funding from the Board.

Elementary Schools

Creation of a Vice Principal position for the four elementary schools. The position will be a tremendous support for horizontal articulation and professional development. The position is budgeted at \$143,127 for salary and benefits. The elementary schools will be introducing Physical Science in grade 5, which will align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Middle School

There will be additional staffing (.6 FTE budgeted at \$62,389 salary and benefits) for special education co-teach model, and in Chinese (.2 FTE budgeted at \$12,124) based on enrollment. Eighth graders will be eligible to take Geometry, as Advanced Algebra will be eliminated. This will provide students the opportunity to move to higher levels of math quicker.

High School

There will additional staffing (1.0 FTE budgeted at \$88,046 salary and benefits) for special education for the expansion of the transition program to the upper grades. There will be additional staffing in art (.2 FTE budgeted at \$12,524) due to enrollment, possible increase (.4 FTE budgeted at \$36,636) in staffing for Spanish based on enrollment, and increase (.2 FTE budgeted at \$20,392) in special education to support World Languages. Classes to be added are Interdisciplinary Course – Cultural History of Modern America and Modern American Studies: Thought and Expression in Modern Age; Contemporary Issues and Leadership Honors II (next step up from Teen Leads); Implement new Business Academy that has an internship component and Microsoft certification offering.

The High School will implement CPR instruction to students prior to graduation in alignment with Janet's Law. Dan Kilday, Supervisor of Athletics is investigating if this instruction will qualify students with a CPR certification.

Special Education

The Transition Program will be grades 9-10 and grades 11-12. The program for grades 9-10 will combine academics with career exploration while for grades 11-12 students, in addition to academics, more internship opportunities will be available. There will be a continuation of the Stigma Free initiative to include community and school based activities and events.

There were additional staffing requests at the Middle School and High School that did not make the budget. There was a full time staff position for a dance program that would have been shared at both schools. A thought was to see if it could start as a club to gauge interest for a potential program. There was a full time Special Education position at the Middle School in support of the co-teach model that did not make the budget. Both schools requested additional sections across several subjects. These will be considered based on enrollment.

The budget will also support the elimination of the contribution from Swimming and Hockey Boosters for pool rental and ice rental, respectively.

The Continuation of the 4-Year Plan has staffing and programs such as the Chromebook Initiative, Middle School parking lot repaving, gym door replacements for the elementary schools, Smart Boards, and the lease agreement with the Borough regarding the Swim Club parking lot.

State Aid for 2016-2017 increased slightly by \$43,277 from 2015-2016. This was mainly due to new aid, Professional Learning Community Aid. The total \$1,443,845 with \$40,082 subtracted for the Assessment for Debt Service on SDA funding resulted in a net aid of \$1,403,763. In addition, the Debt Service Aid came in at \$357,699 for 2016-2017 which is \$7,301 less than 2015-2016.

The district qualified for an Enrollment Adjustment for the 2016-2017 budget. The state calculates a weighted enrollment for 2016-2017, based on enrollment in the past five years. The Enrollment Adjustment increases our 2% tax levy cap from \$60,353,161 to \$60,563,107, an increase of \$209,946. This would raise the tax levy to a 2.35% increase. In addition, we are eligible for a Health Care Cost Waiver Adjustment of \$79,778 for the 2016-2017 budget. Brown and Brown, our health care consultant, indicated an expected premium increase of 15%-18% in January 2017. We have used 15% since our consultant believes the Rx increase will likely not be as high as the initial guidance that she received. The two adjustment/waiver increases will increase the tax levy above 2% by \$289,724. Thus, the tax levy may be increased to 2.49%

The 2016-2017 Budget includes \$645,562 from Banked Cap. Banked Cap is the accumulated unused allowable tax levy funds from prior budget years which can be used in any of the next three succeeding budget years. Availability of Banked Cap is on a 3-year rolling basis. Thus, the 2016-2017 budget year is the last opportunity to use Banked Cap in the foreseeable future. Banked Cap allows school districts to exceed the 2% tax levy increase. The unused allowable amount came from health care cost increase from the 2013-2014 budget. Banked Cap may be used after all Adjustment Waivers are exhausted as well as reserve funds such as capital and maintenance.

The increase above 2% supports the purchases of Chromebooks and carts for the High School for the 1:1 initiative using the VDI platform. The increased amount also supports 6th grade science textbooks to align to NGSS, and staffing to either maintain or reduce class size at the Middle School and High School.

The addition of the Enrollment Adjustment, Health Care Cost Waiver, and the use of the Banked Cap would add \$935,285 to the tax levy and would represent a 3.58% tax levy increase. The tax impact on an average property valued at \$818,689 would be a \$263 increase over 2015 or \$21.92 per month. All nine Board members agreed with the recommendation of a 3.58% increase to support the budget including the Chromebook initiative and maintaining/reducing class sizes.

A motion was made by Ms. Eileen D. Pleva and seconded by Mr. Edward J. Salaski to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Yas Usami
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary