

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

A1

LACEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING - JUNE 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Lacey Township Board of Education was held on June 11, 2024 in the Lacey Township High School Lecture Hall. The meeting was called to order by Board President Harold “Skip” Peters, Jr. at 4:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Peters led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Adequate notice of this meeting was advertised in the Asbury Park Press and the Beacon on June 6, 2024, and by posting the notice in the Forked River Post Office and the Lanoka Harbor Post Office, and by filing a copy of the notice with the Lacey Township Clerk, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Harold “Skip” Peters, Jr., Board President
Kim Klaus, Vice President
Salvatore Armato
Linda A. Walker (By phone/Arrived at 4:52 p.m.)
Jack Conaty
Cheryl Armato
Dan Bell

Also Present: Dr. Vanessa R. Pereira, Superintendent
William W. Zylinski, Assistant Superintendent
Sharon Ormsbee, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Move that the Board approve the following Remote Member Participation and Voting Resolution:

Motion by Mr. Armato, seconded by Mrs. Klaus. Roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Bell - aye

Mrs. Armato - aye

Mr. Conaty - aye

Mrs. Walker - abstain

Mr. Armato - aye

Mrs. Klaus - aye

Mr. Peters - aye

RESOLUTION PERMITTING REMOTE MEMBER PARTICIPATION AND VOTING DUE TO A FAMILIAL MEDICAL EMERGENCY

MOTION: Move that the Board approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the Board believes that in-person meetings are the best way for members to be engaged and participate in the deliberative process; and

Whereas, Board Policy 0131 provides, “The Board may, under emergency circumstances, suspend the operation of a bylaw, policy, or regulation and adopt, revise, or abolish a bylaw, policy, or regulation without prior notice. The emergency adoption, revision, or abolishment of a bylaw, policy, or regulation shall terminate at the next meeting of the Board or at such earlier date as may be specified by the Board unless further acted upon by the Board in accordance with this Bylaw;” and

Whereas, Board Member Linda Walker is unable to attend the June 11, 2024 meeting due to a familial medical emergency, but nonetheless wishes to partake in the deliberative process and Board Meeting; and

Whereas, the Board finds that under these circumstances, it shall suspend its regular practice of in-person attendance and permit Mrs. Walker to attend the meeting via telephone and vote on all matters as if she were present; and

Whereas, this exception shall apply for the current meeting only, unless otherwise authorized by resolution of the Board.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Lacey Township Board of Education that Board Member Linda Walker shall be permitted to participate and vote in the meeting on June 11, 2024 via telephone; and

Be it further resolved that such remote participation be conditioned on the ability of the public and Mrs. Walker to be heard as if she were physically present.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- The 2024-2025 Tentative Budget was represented by the following:
 - Dr. Vanessa Pereira, Superintendent
 - Ms. Sharon Ormsbee, Business Administrator

Dr. Pereira shared additional information regarding the budget, discussion in Trenton, the impact of the budget, and the S2 cuts. The Tentative Budget presentation will be posted on the District website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments included the proposed tax increase and burden on the taxpayers. Notifications and communications should go to the whole community. Decrease in enrollment. Look forward down the road as to what the District is going to do. Education is the priority. Elimination of courtesy busing is a concern. Inquiry regarding the cost of courtesy busing. Comment regarding tax increase, benefit of the tax increase, and what is being given back. Comment regarding student achievement. Inquiry regarding lawsuit settlement and the donation from Lacey MUA. Comment regarding contract negotiations and priorities of budget items. Additional comments included class sizes, community coming together, student achievement, administrative cuts, pay to play, and thoughts of the future. Fight needs to go to Trenton and the community needs to come together. Thank you to all the educators.

BOARD COMMENT

Thank you for attending the meeting. Very difficult budget. Value in education and appreciate all the comments. Do not want to lose residents; this budget is a temporary fix. Need to have a five (5) year plan and must continue to keep fighting. Response to courtesy busing public comment and the suggestion to sell assets. Against larger class sizes, cuts in student activities, and reduction in staff. Continue to support the students.

Move that the Board approve the following Adoption of Amended Tentative Budget for the 2024-2025 School

Year:

Motion by Mrs. Klaus, seconded by Mr. Conaty. Roll call vote as follows:

Mr. Bell - aye

Mrs. Armato - nay

Mr. Conaty - aye

Mrs. Walker - aye

Mr. Armato - nay

Mrs. Klaus - aye

Mr. Peters - aye

ADOPTION OF AMENDED TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

MOTION: Move that the Board adopt the amended tentative budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the amended tentative budget for the 2024-2025 school year be approved using the 2024-2025 state aid figures, and that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following amended tentative budget to the Ocean County Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the amended statutory deadline:

| | General | Special | Debt | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | <u>Fund</u> | <u>Revenues</u> | <u>Service</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Total Expenditures | \$71,318,748 | \$7,885,167 | \$3,302,700 | \$82,506,615 |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues | <u>12,859,719</u> | <u>7,885,167</u> | <u>560,727</u> | <u>21,305,613</u> |
| Taxes to be Raised | \$58,459,029 | \$0 | \$2,741,973 | \$61,201,002 |

And to advertise said amended tentative budget in the Asbury Park Press and the Beacon newspapers in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in the Lacey Township High School Lecture Hall, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on and adopting the budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the Lacey Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Lacey Township Board of Education established \$90,647 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$65,424 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$70,300 for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

Move that the Board approve the following Stabilized School Budget Aid Grant Program and Increased Tax Levy Cap:

Motion by Mrs. Klaus, seconded by Mrs. Walker. Roll call vote as follows:

- Mr. Bell - aye
- Mrs. Armato - nay
- Mr. Conaty - aye
- Mrs. Walker - aye
- Mr. Armato - nay
- Mrs. Klaus - aye
- Mr. Peters - aye

STABILIZED SCHOOL BUDGET AID GRANT PROGRAM AND INCREASED TAX LEVY CAP

MOTION: Move that the Board accept the stabilization aid grant for the 2024-2025 school year.

WHEREAS, P.L.2024, c.13: Stabilized School Budget Aid Grant Program and Increased Tax Levy Cap for Certain Districts, and;

WHEREAS, Under the Stabilized School budget Aid Grant Program, a school district subject to a State school aid reduction in the 2024-2025 school year is eligible for an aid grant equal to 45% of the amount of the school district’s State school aid reduction, and;

WHEREAS, Districts were provided notice of the amounts eligible on or about May 15, 2024, and;

WHEREAS, Districts must appropriate these funds no later than July 5, 2024, and;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lacey Township Board of Education appropriates the additional funds received in the amount of \$1,442,656 in the following budgetary line items:

| Budget Line | Amount | Description |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 11-1XX-100-XXX | \$869,004 | CB Replacements & Teachers |
| 11-2XX-100-XXX | \$351,452 | Teachers |
| 11-000-218-XXX | \$ 72,200 | Counselor |
| 11-000-26X-XXX | \$ 50,000 | Maintenance |
| 11-XXX-XXX-2XX | \$100,000 | Benefits |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lacey Township Board of Education hereby adopts the following final budget for SY 2024-2025:

| | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|------|--|
| | General | Special | Debt | |
|--|---------|---------|------|--|

| | <u>Fund</u> | <u>Revenues</u> | <u>Service</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Total Expenditures | \$71,318,748 | \$7,885,167 | \$3,302,700 | \$82,506,615 |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues | <u>12,859,719</u> | <u>7,885,167</u> | <u>560,727</u> | <u>21,305,613</u> |
| Taxes to be Raised | \$58,459,029 | \$0 | \$2,741,973 | \$61,201,002 |

ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Peters, seconded by Mrs. Klaus. All in favor.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ormsbee
Business Administrator/Board Secretary