



Budget Hearing Minutes – June 5, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Riverview Junior Senior High School

In Attendance:

In attendance: Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mr. DiClaudio, Mr. DiPietro, Mr. Hackworth, Mrs. Hurt-Robinson, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Nehlsen, Mrs. Tompa, Dr. McClure; Dr. DiNinno, Ms. Good, Dr. Monroe, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. English, Mr. Zolkowski, Mrs. Plance, Mr. Rizzo, Mrs. Lape, Mrs. Galata, Mrs. Ruggiero, Mr. Spohn, Mrs. Lohn, Mr. Libell, Ms. Luther, Mr. Capsambelis, Ms. Harden, Ms. Wilton, Ms. Aughenbaugh, Ms. Tomlinson, Mrs. Yingling, Ms. McElligott, Ms. Hemingray, Ms. Romeo, Ms. Morda, Mr. Krajca, Mr. Richards, Mrs. Gross, Ms. Shoop, Ms. Lorenz, Ms. Tsambis, Ms. Mamula, Ms. Huffman, Ms. DeVita, Ms. Chapano, Mr. Dull, unnamed individuals who did not sign in

The Finance Committee began the meeting indicating that a budget must be passed in 2 weeks.

Ms. Tammy Good shared that the Final Budget must be passed June 19th. She went over changes in the budget from May 15th to June 5th. (She provided hand-outs and presented the information on screen). Additional costs and additional savings since May 15th were provided. ESCO and Capital Project plans were also reviewed.

Mr. Nehlsen indicated that from a financial perspective, he has looked at the horizon and does not like the view. The problem will not be unique to this year alone. He also stated that we need to study it and decide what we are going to do about it. He explained that we need to take a long-term comprehensive look and minimize the impact this has on us in the short-term.

Ms. Good reminded everyone that the transportation allotment from the state may be taken away.

The following feedback was shared by individual board members:

Dr. Loeffler-Forbes costs have increased because Penn Hills is sending less students and the tuition is based on per capita

Lisa Ashbaugh- recommended not curtailing PE and hiring either a Reading or Math teacher, but not both

David DiPietro – indicated that we should pick the amount of money going in to the budget and allow administrators to choose how best to execute plan

Alex DiClaudio- shared that he tends to agree with David

John Hackworth – reminded the board that there is a well proven need for reading and math support. He also explained that the District has had 2 years of no tax increase mostly due to delinquent tax collections and we will face more difficulty next year

Lisa Ashbaugh – suggested that the District keep the total number of teachers at its current level so we don't have to furlough next year

Dr. Loeffler – suggested using the fund balance for the gap between revenues and expenditures

David DiPietro – stated that he was worried about using fund balance. What if we do not end up getting the delinquent tax we expect to get?

Dr. McClure- indicated that the assessment of properties coming on to the rolls needs to be monitored. And we should consider what we get from the new properties anticipated revenue, such as Edgewater

Jeanine Hurt Robinson- Asked if the staffing scenarios could result in furloughs in 18-19 budget. Dr. DiNinno indicated that we can't be certain, but they are highly likely.

Dori Tompa asked about the fixed costs. She asked what is the percent increase of fixed costs? Dr. DiNinno and Ms. Good shared that fixed costs amount to about \$680K for staffing.

Discussion about rules of increasing over index was held.

John Nehlsen indicated that there is a need to do the study that was recommended last week in order to see what is in the future.

Dr. Loeffler shared that many are trying to get money from the charter schools (state level).

Dr. McClure – indicated that those associated with the federal revenues are looking at money following the child, regardless of where they attend school.

Alex DiClaudio – indicated that he does not like dipping into fund balance to cover holes. He shared that he is in support of taking a long term look at everything and that given that we are doing the long term study, he is leaning towards feeling ok with using fund balance for this year.

David DiPietro – shared that mills being at 22.3 rather than 22.2 allow the administration to be creative in how to solve the problem.

Some discussion regarding the Strategic Plan and the state timeline and our own realistic version of the plan was also held suggesting that all of this has to fit into that plan and the District's future.

Hearing of Citizens:

Dr. McClure reminded everyone present to sign in. She explained that the only topic up for discussion is one related to the budget. She shared that everyone get s 1 comment first, please be brief, and then we may go back for second round.

- One resident noted that the student ratio 10:1 is something people would die for in other places. He explained that, he would like to see more publicity about awards for the school that would make people want to move to Oakmont. He indicated that he does not want to see taxes raised and asked the board to look at other alternatives to raising taxes
- One resident shared that she would like to see growth in tax revenues. She asked questions pertaining to whether budgets have been audited. She questioned the Edgewater tax base. And asked that the board not raise taxes.
- Dr. DiNinno suggested that she meet with the Finance Committee to obtain clarification and get answers to her questions.
- John Nehlsen indicated that he would like to meet with her offline to discuss some of her suggestions specifically factoring receivables.
- John Hackworth then shared action taken over the past few years regarding tax collection and that the board continues to monitor this.
- Several parents shared comments on the following topics:
 - achievement at the High School is more than just a test score
 - High quality of programs offered at the JHSH

- High ranks earned in US News and World Report
- Consider other ways to support math needs and monitor teacher numbers
- Do not make any changes to way current physical education program is being implemented
- One parent shared concerns about having students work with other students indicating she had a concern due to an experience she was aware of earlier this year. The board indicated that the concern would be researched and addressed.
- Create cyber school
- John Hackworth explained that our test scores take a dip when they hit the middle school. This has been a pattern for some time and we are seeking ways to address this.
- Hiring a PR firm may not be a luxury we can afford. Need to give it time.
- Let's figure out what is happening and postpone trying to fix it
- Mark Capsambelis – Teacher's Union President- indicated he met with teachers and they suggest that the district not hire a math specialist. They recommend that money be spent filling elementary coach positions, putting in an ES program in each building, on the k12 curriculum, incorporating writing and math, and obtaining more support for administrators to help teachers in their classrooms.
- Student enrollment and private schools
- Can't compare Riverview to other more affluent schools
- Consider sharing services with another district
- Consider how many students opt out of the test

Dr. DiNinno shared that there are not a large number of people leaving the district. She stated that our efforts and our accomplishments with focusing on our middle school students over the past few years are making a difference. She reminded everyone that the teachers and the administrators have started the process of supporting the middle school achievement needs through transitional programming and curricular adjustments. This focus was started to determine if the gap is more of the adjustment of moving to 7-12 building rather than moving to just a middle school. She indicated that she is proud of the efforts that have been put in place and wants to continue to support student needs reminding the group that we must meet the needs of all of our students. She thanked those who are working together to accomplish this and reminded everyone that everyone's efforts will be needed to accomplish our goals. We will need to work together to get the job done.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.