

SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Springfield, New Jersey  
SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 16, 2009

The Springfield Board of Education is committed to providing high quality, efficient educational programs through which all students achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Contents Standards. Every effort is made to ensure that the district's certificated and support personnel are among the best in their fields.

The staff and Board of Education are dedicated to maintaining excellence in the delivery of child-centered educational programs. Very simply stated, in Springfield...SCHOOLS ARE FOR KIDS!

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union, New Jersey, was held at the Jonathan Dayton High School Instructional Media Center-First Floor on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 6:37 P.M.

President's Statement: Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, the Board Secretary caused notice of the meeting to be given to the public and the press on March 4, 2009 and revised on March 12, 2009.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Anthony Delia

Present: Mr. Donato Circelli, Miss Linda Duke, Mr. Andrew Fekete, Dr. David Hollander, Mr. Irwin Sablosky, Mrs. Jacqueline Shanes, Mr. Jeff Strumpf, Mrs. Patricia Venezia, Mr. Anthony Delia

Also

Present: Mr. Michael Davino, Superintendent  
Mrs. Hillary Corburn, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Matthew Clarke, Business Administrator/ Board Secretary  
Mrs. Ellyn Atherton, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Joseph Maddaloni, Board Attorney

2. CLOSED SESSION (6:38-7:45 PM)

Moved by Miss Duke, seconded by Mr. Sablosky, to suspend the rules of the order of business of the Regular Meeting and adjourn to closed conference session for the reasons contained in the following resolution:

RESOLUTION:

“WHEREAS the Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning matters protected by Attorney/Client privilege which are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting and which are within the exemptions permitted to be discussed and acted upon in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975 Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in private session by this Board and the administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.”

Closed Conference Items

1. Matters protected by Attorney/Client privilege

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Shanes and Dr. Hollander left meeting at 7:44 PM

3. RECONVENE

Moved by Miss Duke, seconded by Mrs. Venezia, approval to reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Shanes and Dr. Hollander returned to the meeting at 7:47 PM

5. SEC RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Irwin Sablosky, seconded by Miss Linda Duke, to approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board President has been made aware of comments that were posted on blogs and/or websites that were highly critical of the district and its employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board President was also provided information as to the e-mail addresses from which certain usernames were registered: and

**WHEREAS**, it was revealed that there were approximately 90 fictitious names, usernames and/or user accounts believed to be from the home, work and Board of Education e-mail accounts and/or Internet Protocol addresses of Board member Jeff Strumpf used to make the referenced postings: and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly the Board President believes that the physical and circumstantial evidence suggests that Mr. Strumpf may have been the individual responsible for posting the improper and inappropriate comments on blogs and/or public websites, a fact which has been reviewed with Mr. Strumpf and his attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly the Board President believes that, if proven true, certain posted comments could potentially violate the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A 18A:12-21, et seq.; and

WHEREAS such misconduct would also seem to violate the letter and spirit of the QSAC District Improvement Plan, filed by this district with the Executive County Superintendent of Schools after failing in the QSAC section on governance, which may require additional action by this Board if these allegations are true,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board empowers and directs the Board President to file an appropriate complaint with the School Ethics Commission with regard to an apparent violation of the School Ethics Act and/or Code of Ethics for School Board Members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board cannot and would not make an ultimate decision as to guilt or innocence, but recognizes that the appropriate place for such a determination is the School Ethics Commission, which can weigh the evidence and testimony from Mr. Strumpf and others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs and empowers its President to file this action with regret that such is necessary, but is left with no other alternative in order to have this matter reviewed and concluded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary shall take appropriate action to recommend to this Board, at its next meeting, special counsel to be retained to handle this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board views this as a serious matter which it hopes to have addressed in order that the Board may focus on its other business and maintain the confidence of its employees and the public.

(The public was presented with the opportunity to comment prior to the vote on the SEC Resolution.)

6. PUBLIC INPUT (7:55-8:14 PM)

The following members of the public had comments or concerns regarding the SEC Resolution:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Warren Frank  | Dennis Wolfe |
| Steve Wolcott | Rachel Gary  |
| Fran Sandler  | Mindy Moss   |

THE VOTE ON SEC RESOLUTION

Yeas: Miss Linda Duke, Mr. Irwin Sablosky, Mrs. Jacqueline Shanes, Mrs. Patricia Venezia, Mr. Anthony Delia

Nays: Mr. Donato Circelli, Dr. David Hollander, Mr. Andrew Fekete

Abstention: Mr. Jeff Strumpf

MOTION CARRIED

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Davino reviewed the following items:

1. Budget Presentation – 2009-10 Proposed Tentative Budget

8. PUBLIC SESSION (9:05 – 9:24 PM)

The following members of the public had comments or questions regarding the Agenda:

Steve Wolcott (Superintendent's Report)

Brian Kass (Superintendent's Report)

9. TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

Moved by Mr. Sablosky, seconded by Mrs. Shanes, approval of the attached resolution authorizing the submission to the Union County Executive Superintendent of Schools the tentative 2009-2010 School District Budget of \$34,540,111.00 and authorize the administration to make necessary adjustments and post legal notices as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A." (Attachment A)

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

10. APPENDIX E

Moved by Mr. Sablosky, seconded by Mrs. Shanes, that the Board of Education approved the attached Appendix E documentation supporting its estimated current year general fund surplus balances." (Attachment A1)

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

11. 3<sup>rd</sup> PUBLIC SESSION (9:28-9:43 PM)

The following members of the public had comments about G&T, locker room theft, locker room locker sizes and Magnet School:

Laura Delia

Warren Frank

Lloyd Grossman

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Members were reminded that the Superintendent's evaluation form is due next Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and any not return by this date will not be included in the evaluation
- b. *Footloose* will be presented at JDHS this week, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>
- c. Walton fundraiser at Szechuan Village in March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>
- d. *Teacher of the Year* at each school were announced:
  - Walton – Susie Webster
  - Caldwell – Kristen Schulz
  - Sandmeier – Gregg Erickson
  - Gaudineer – Bonnie Borton
  - Dayton – Jen Mortensen
- e. (2) Board members are needed to help in the screening process for the selection of teacher of the year to represent Springfield in the NJ Teacher of the Year

- f. The ballot position for the School Boards Election was held on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, ballot positions are as follows:
  - Ballot Position 1. Brian Kass
  - Ballot Position 2. David Amlen
  - Ballot Position 3. Anthony Delia
  - Ballot Position 4. Alexander Mezzo
  - Ballot Position 5. Jacqueline Shanes
  - Ballot Position 6. Dennis Wolfe
- g. FMG “Coffee/Tea” presentation of QUIA on March 12<sup>th</sup> was well attended and well received by parents of the community
- h. FMG PTA will host an Internet Safety program for parents at JDHS on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 -9:00 PM
- i. The PLP team will present this Friday at the State restructuring High School project meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT (9:52 PM)

Moved by Miss Duke, seconded by Mrs. Shanes, to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 PM.

Yeas: Unanimous by all Members present.

MOTION CARRIED

Upcoming Meetings:

- 1. Regular Meeting – March 23, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the IMC at JDHS
- 2. Public Hearing on the 2009-10 Tentative Budget – March 31, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the IMC at JDHS

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Matthew A. Clarke  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Springfield Board is required by N.J. 18A:7a-28 to submit an itemized budget to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools on or before March 18, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the County Superintendent must review and may request changes in the itemized budget;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed 2009-2010 School Budget be tentatively adopted as follows, subject to the approval of the County Superintendent of Schools:

	Budget	Tax Levy
General Fund	\$32,885,875.00	\$30,561,479.00
Special Revenue	\$ 556,411.00	\$0.00
Debt Service	\$ 1,097,825.00	\$ 928,549.00
Total Budget	\$34,540,111.00	

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

1. The Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the proposed 2009-2010 School District Budget as presented on the State required forms to the County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval; and
2. The Superintendent of Schools and Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to make changes or revisions to the proposed 2009-2010 School District Budget if so recommended by the Union County Superintendent of Schools.

REVIEW OF ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE

SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION

	Attachment (A1)				
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)
Support	Beg. Bal. 1610	1620	1630	1640	End.Bal. 1650
	(1610-1620-1630+1640=1650)				
Data Enter Amounts from Recap	2,399,059	1,315,209	103,808	0	980,042
Sum of Three Lines Must Equal Recap Amount:					
Enter Amount Certified For Taxes		29,692,363			
Enter Additional Amount Appropriated		0			
Enter Amount Certified For Taxes Not Appropriated as (Neg)		0			
<b>Support for lines 1620 and 1630</b>					
Board Resolutions:					
Appropriated Fund Balance (Part of 2009 Proposed Budget)		375,626			
Reserve for Encumbrances (Part of 2008 Proposed Budget)		939,583			
Reserves:					
Capital Reserve		-			
Additional Amount to be budgeted in 2009-10 due to S-1701			103,808.00		
<b>Review for Add'l Surplus Generated - line 1640</b>					
Under Estimated Revenues:					
(Review in Conjunction with Prior Year CAFR schedule J-15)					
Unbudgeted Investment Income on Bonded Projects				0	
Unbudgeted GF Interest on Investments				0	
Unbudgeted Misc. Tuition Revenue				0	
Unbudgeted Transportation Fees				0	
Unencumbered Appropriation Balances:					
Large Amounts with no Justification				0	
Purchase Orders:					
Prior Year Cancelled POs				0	
Old Outstanding PO's no Longer Necessary				0	
Transfer to Food Service:					
Amount of Budgeted Transfer not Needed due to a Large Retained Earnings Bal from the Prior Year				0	
Total amounts must agree with the applicable line on recap, or applicable component of as noted above.		1,315,209	103,808	0	
		(NOTE 1)	(NOTE 2)	(NOTE 3)	
NOTE 1 - Amount must agree with the additional amount appropriated on line 1620 of recap. If this amount is correct and different from recap adjust recap.					
NOTE 2 - Amount must agree with line 1630 on recap. If this amount is correct and different from recap adjust recap.					
NOTE 3 - Amount must agree with line 1640 on recap. If this amount is correct and different from recap adjust recap.					
Springfield Board of Education Regular Meeting March 16, 2009					