

**BRICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC FORUM ON THE BUDGET  
MARCH 1, 2011**

**Location/Time:** 7:00 PM, Veterans Memorial Middle School  
105 Hendrickson Avenue, Brick, New Jersey

**Present:** Ms. Leone, Mr. Merola, Mr. Pifko, Mr. Talty, Mr. Wolf  
and Ms. Terebush

**Absent:** Mr. Cuppari

**Also present:** Mr. Hrycenko, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Lorusso, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Elward, Legal Counsel  
and Mr. Edwards, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Ms. Terebush opened the meeting with a salute to the flag, moment of silence and roll call.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT NOTICE**

Mr. Edwards announced: "The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon." In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Brick Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be posted on the Administration Office Bulletin Board, the official District website and Channel BTV-20, and sent to the Asbury Park Press and Municipal Clerk's Office.

Ms. Terebush thanked everyone for coming out for the meeting. The agenda will afford the public an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Tentative Budget. Ms. Terebush then handed over the meeting to Mr. Pifko, Chairman of the Operations Committee (Business and Finance).

Mr. Pifko indicated that the Board will be voting on the Tentative Budget. The start of the dialogue will be with public comment to allow the public the opportunity to address their concerns and provide input. The Tentative Budget is not the final budget – it can be modified between now and the date of final adoption, April 27, 2011.

Mr. Pifko noted that March 22<sup>nd</sup> is also the date of the National Honor Society Induction at BMHS – conflict?

2011-2012 budget information is on the website – the entire detailed budget.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Fanelli asked questions or made comments about capital improvements at Brick Township High School, Superintendent's salary, bathroom monitors at the high schools, stipends for perfect attendance and pay raises.

Ms. Zuckerman asked questions or made comments about a student at Red Bank School for the Performing Arts, a student in Kansas, the Teachers' Union President, students shopping at A&P, 8<sup>th</sup> grade World History textbooks, No Child Left Behind, Supervisors, the rate for MATES and the Performing Arts School, benefits for KWrap and BEST Program employees, enrollment at EEC/PLC, Central Administrators and EEC, and the tuition for PreSchool Program.

Mr. Lawrence asked questions or made comments about the top 5 categories of overall increase, increase in taxes, where would cuts come – if necessary, the process if Town Council becomes involved, "0" based budget process, where does the District need additional funds?, and decrease in staff for next year.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Hrycenko answered the questions.

**BOARD COMMENT**

Ms. Leone asked how much a sub is per day.

Mr. Talty asked questions regarding the projected analysis for gas and electricity vs. the Board Secretary's Report. Discussion continued with Mr. Edwards about the intricacies of the various reports.

Mr. Merola asked how many teachers were cut out of last year's budget and this year. He asked about the Administrators' giveback and who took freezes last year.

Mr. Talty asked about an increase in salary for nurses. The increase involved movement on the guide or a transfer of staff.

Mr. Pifko noted that in the budget projection on page 7 "Principal" refers to Principals and Assistant Principals. Mr. Hrycenko said the same is true in other categories

Ms. Terebush asked Mr. Edwards how many were included in the "principal" category for BMHS – the answer is five.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Sinclair asked questions or made comments on staff were being added, (There will be 13 less teaching and 9 less paraprofessionals) and class trips for next year. Ms. Lorusso answered.

Ms. Cusanelli asked or commented about the Pathways Program, High Schools newspapers and literacy magazines, audio equipment, Middle School sports, Second Questions, tuition reimbursement, uniforms, copier maintenance and cell phones.

Mr. Lawrence asked or commented about expanding the Solar Panels project, lack of copy of budget to see, the sound system and the budget being projected on the screen.

Mr. Fanelli read a statement about the purpose of adopting a budget, expressed concern about the Brick Township High School. Discussion continued with Mr. Edwards explaining that there is no money for Capital Projects, just maintenance in the budget, and the need for a Referendum. Mr. Fanelli suggested putting \$2 million in the budget each year for BTHS. Mr. Edwards asked where they would get the \$2 million – what should be cut? Mr. Fanelli asked if anyone had watched the Town Council meeting.

Mr. Zawacki asked how long BTHS has been in need of repairs, and suggested former boards did not address the problems.

Ms. Cusanelli asked or made comments about the Ed Jobs bill grant, transfers of funds, and suggested a tracking page for all changes being made to the budget from here on. Discussion continued about the budget process last year vs. what is planned for this year.

Mr. Pifko hopes that after the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting there will be no more changes. The Superintendent, Business Administrator and Operations Committee have been working. He remarked that some citizens seem to feel glee at the failure of the budget and wishes they would tell us now what they want so it can be considered. He indicated that this budget is asking for a 1.8 cent increase (within 2 % cap) whereas the Township is asking for a 9.9 cent increase. He hopes the people come out to vote, and that the Board can work with the Township.

Ms. Cusanelli suggested looking into the mailings that come home at 44 cents a piece, instead of bulk mail as a place to look. She commented on the audio equipment and Mr. Edwards indicated that Dina has put together a plan for a better presentation.

Mr. Edwards asked Mr. Pifko if they could track down the recommendations and report back at the next meeting.

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Mr. Cusanelli asked who is stuffing the envelopes that come home, advising more automation less cost.

Mr. Zuckerman said we shouldn't be mailing anything – all should be done electronically. She asked or made comments about Subject Supervisors teaching a class, \$700 for copies of the constitution for the children, and the distraction of air horns at the middle school promotion ceremonies with no one from administration stopping them.

Ms. Terebush thanked everyone who browsed the budget online and encouraged more people to participate.

Ms. Leone issued the reminder that when we vote on the budget we vote on the tax levy. If the budget passes, things can change.

Ms. Rosace indicated that that sounds like bullying to her. Discussion continued between Ms. Leone and Ms. Rosace about why there could have been Middle School sports if the budget had passed. She asked questions or commented on how to get parents involved, and decreasing standards. She commented on sending supplies to school, and Mr. Hrycenko asked her to meet with Ms. Lorusso after the meeting to correct this.

**ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE 2011-2012 SCHOOL BUDGET**

A motion was made by Ms. Leone, seconded Mr. Pifko, and with the following roll call vote, approved the Tentative Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent, as follows:

Mr. Wolf	Yes
Mr. Talty	Abstain
Ms. Leone	Yes
Mr. Merola	Yes
Mr. Cuppari	Absent
Mr. Pifko	Yes
Ms. Terebush	Yes

to approve a Resolution to adopt the school district budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 for submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, as follows:

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**BRICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2011-2012 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Brick Township board of Education approve the school district budget for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 for submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, as follows:

	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
Total General Fund	\$ 135,770,240	\$ 96,506,217
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 4,116,289	\$ 0
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 3,421,122	\$ 2,790,108

Mr. Talty asked questions about the Town Council's proposal regarding the budget last year. Mr. Edwards explained its implications for the District. Ms. Terebush reported that she and Mr. Pifko had met with Ms. Scuturro asking her to persuade the Council not to make the cut.

Ms. Terebush reviewed important dates:

March 8, 2011	Public Forum on the Budget	7:00 PM	LRMS
March 15, 2011	Public Forum on the Budget	7:00 PM	BMHS
March 22, 2011	Public Forum on the Budget	7:00 PM	BTHS
March 29, 2011	Public Hearing & Adoption of Final Budget	7:00 PM	VMMS
April 27, 2011	Annual School Election	2:30 PM to 9:00 PM	

At 9:36 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Pifko, seconded by seconded by Ms. Leone, and with a unanimous roll call vote, the Board of Education adjourned this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Edwards, Jr., CPA  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary