

MOUNTAIN LAKES BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, March 22, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Mountain Lakes Borough Board of Education was held on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Lakes High School.

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Burch
Mrs. Feigeles
Mr. Gniewek
Mrs. Mitchell
Mr. Moreau
Mr. Munday
Mrs. Sheppell
Mr. Stokes
Mrs. Wall
Mr. Bentrovato, Boonton Township Representative

Also present: Dr. Kazmark, Superintendent, Mary Wallace, MLEA Representative, approximately 100 members of the public

STATEMENT OF NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice 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 Mountain Lakes Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Mountain Lakes Municipal Building and sent to the following newspaper: the Citizen and the Morris County Daily Record.

PRESENTATION

2010-2011 Budget

Dr. Kazmark advised that the budget process has been incredibly challenging and information continues to be received and reviewed. The Board has been looking very carefully at the budget since the beginning of the school year.

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Mr. Stokes gave a slide presentation of the proposed budget which he said will be the same presentation made at the Public Hearing on March 29. The presentation provided information on the following topics: the district's commitment to educational excellence, the unprecedented economic challenges, the loss of the district's state aid, the amount of the budget attributable to Lake Drive School, the 2009-10 budget analysis and 2010-2011 budget and the suspension of capital spending. Mr. Stokes advised that the budget includes a 2.47% tax increase equal to \$214 per year for the average homeowner.

Mr. Borgo provided an overview of how the budget process works. The Board will approve the tentative budget which will be advertised in the newspaper, the formal Public Hearing will be held on March 29 and the election is scheduled on April 20. Mr. Borgo also provided information with regard to the proposed tax levy increase, a comparison to other districts in Morris County, the surplus, loss of state aid, enrollment comparisons, and the budget highlights.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Wallace noted that the health benefits include dental as well as medical and the staff does pay toward the dental benefits. The teachers also contribute to the pension plan.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public, including Jane Cook, David Chapman, Jerry Lynch, Steve Castellucci, Mimi Kaplan, Maryann Brennan, Bob Miller, Max Schindler, Lee Dagger, Kim Wilcox, Jim Bailey, Alison Fenton and Jocelyn Lipit, raised questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- It would be useful for the presentation to include information on how the Board arrived at their decisions regarding reductions in staff.
- Dr. Kazmark provided an overview of the restraints on staff reductions including tenure.
- Was consideration given to consolidating the principal's position at Wildwood with Briarcliff rather than hiring a new principal?
- What is the contingency plan in the event the budget is not approved? More information should be presented to the community about what will happen if the budget is not approved.
- The district has an excellent teaching staff and they should be asked for input on how to reduce costs.
- Consideration should be given to changing the health insurance provider.
- The district is legally obligated to provide an equivalent coverage and efforts are underway to find an alternate provider.
- Consideration should be given to changes in operations and maintenance.
- There is one less custodial position in the budget which brings the number to the minimum requirements based on square footage.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC continued

- How many members of the staff could take retirement and what dollar savings would result?
- The teachers have been requested to forego the scheduled salary increase.
- The Governor has proposed a 1.5% contribution by staff for medical benefits and a 2.5% hard cap on total budgets.
- Information was provided with respect to the pre-school program and efforts to increase enrollment.
- Effort should be made to keep the music program as vibrant as it is now.
- The Board needs to explain to the public what will happen if the budget is not approved including changes in class size or changes in the high school schedule.
- More information about how program decisions have been reached should be included in the presentation.
- Consideration should be given to alternate methods of delivery of the language program including after school classes, on-line classes and shared classes with other districts.
- Concern was expressed about putting off the roof work since it will cost more in the future and state aid for the roof project could be lost.

Dr. Kazmark noted that the staff has been very understanding and cooperative throughout this process. He also advised that the Commissioner and Governor support the suspension of some of the state mandates and there will be an opportunity for the district to express opinions to them regarding state mandates.

The Board thanked the members of the public for their attention to the presentation and comments and questions.

The Board members thanked Dr. Kazmark, Mr. Borgo, Mr. Stokes and the members of the Finance Committee for an outstanding budget presentation.

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY**

Please note that Mr. Benvato, Boonton Township representative to the Mountain Lakes Board, only votes on high school and district wide issues.

Motion by Mrs. Wall, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the following tentative 2010-2011 School District Budget and Tax Levy be approved for submission to and review by the Morris County Superintendent of Schools:

425-09
Submission
Of Tentative
Budget to County
Superintendent

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY continued**

General Fund Tax Levy (Mountain Lakes only) \$18,254,489

Debt Service Tax Levy (Mountain Lakes only) \$1,151,079

General Fund Appropriations (Includes Lake Drive) \$32,434,333

Total Tentative 2010-2011 Budget (Includes Lake Drive) \$34,693,132

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve the following new non-resident tuition student for the 2009-2010 school year, effective March 3, 2010:

426-09
Non-Resident
Tuition
Student

Emma Bukowiecki Grade 9 #02-09

This student has been interviewed and recommended by Dr. Anne Mucci, Principal of Mountain Lakes High School.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve a transfer of an out-of-district student, #02-415, from Banyan School, Fairfield, NJ to Holmstead School, Ridgewood, NJ effective March 29, 2010, for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year at a tuition of \$235.69 per diem for approximately 55 days.

427-09
Transfer of
Out of
District
Student

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve the following change in Lake Drive School Enrollment for the 2009-2010 School Year:

428-09
Change in
Lake Drive
Enrollment

Effective 3/15/10 Mansfield Township Public Schools #428-09
Pre-school Full day

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 9-0.

Motion by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mrs. Shepell, to approve the following new non-resident tuition student for the 2010-2011 School Year:

429-09
Non-Resident
Tuition
Student

Matthew D'Aloia Grade 9 #01-10

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY continued**

The student was interviewed and recommended by Dr. Anne Mucci, Principal of Mountain Lakes High School.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the attached 2010-2011 School Calendar.

430-09
2010-2011
School
Calendar

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Carolyn Opipari**, as a replacement teacher at Wildwood School, effective Thursday, April 8th thru the last day of school, at BA Step 1, pro-rated at 1/200th per diem. Ms. Opipari will replace Ms. O'Boyle while she is on maternity leave.

431-09
Personnel
Maternity/ Child
Care
Replacement
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

Motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Wall, to approve the appointment of **Pamela Ahn**, as a replacement teacher at Mountain Lakes High School, effective Thursday, April 26th thru the last day of school and all of 2010-2011 school year, at BA Step 1, pro-rated at 1/200th per diem, pending completion of paperwork. Ms. Ahn will replace Ms. Cesaro while she is on maternity leave.

432-09
Personnel
Maternity/ Child
Care
Replacement
Appointment

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote 10-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kazmark advised that a communication has been received encouraging the Board to consider honoring Doug Wilkins by naming the field after him. A letter was also received from the President of the Wildwood Student Government regarding the use of Styrofoam trays in the cafeteria and the environmental impact of those trays.

BOONTON TOWNSHIP REPORT

Mr. Bentrovato reported that the Boonton Township Board has been working on their budget. They are looking at the issue of courtesy busing.

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COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MLEA PRESIDENT

Ms. Wallace thanked the Board for their consideration of the 2010-2011 school calendar including the input from the MLEA regarding snow days. She also thanked the Board and Dr. Kazmark for the words of support for the staff to the public. The MLEA appreciates the Board's efforts in this difficult time and will support the budget.

COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In response to a question from a member of the public, Mr. Borgo advised that there are approximately 18-24 staff members who would be eligible for retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Munday, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, that meeting be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel A. Borgo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Regina Giardina, Stenographer

Meetings of the Mountain Lakes Board of Education

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Place</u>
March 29, 2010	Public Hearing/Regular	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
April 12, 2010	Regular	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)
April 26, 2010	Regular and Reorganization	Mountain Lakes High School (7:30 p.m.)