

11343
March 25, 2014

BRIDGETON BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET HEARING/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING
March 25, 2014

The Budget Hearing/Special public action meeting of the Bridgeton Board of Education was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Nicole Schoener. Board Members present were Ms. Angelia Edwards, Mrs. Mary Peterson, Mr. Albert Morgan, Ms. Barbara Taylor Holmes and Mr. Kenny SmithBey Jr. and Mr. Ricardo Perez (arrived at 5:05 pm). Mrs. Brenda Dellaquilla, Mr. James Williamson and Mr. Curtis Edwards were absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Thomasina Jones, Superintendent, Mrs. Nicole M. Schoener, School Business Administrator, Mr. Nedd Johnson, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Kevin McCann, Solicitor. Prayer was offered by Ms. Edwards.

OPENING ACTIVITIES/MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Bridgeton Public School District is to provide multiple pathways for all students to attain the Common Core State Standards and meet the needs of our diverse student population. All students will be provided with the opportunity and resources to succeed through the creation of state-of-the-art safe learning environments which will ultimately enable all students to graduate from high school and become productive members of a global community.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. Bridgeton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Bank Street Administration Building and mailed to the City Clerk of Bridgeton, The Evening News, Bridgeton, The Press of Atlantic City, and Radio Station WSNJ, Bridgeton on March 21, 2014.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-None

Dr. Jones thanked the Business administrator and Assistant Business Administrator for their support and development of the budget.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET

- A. Welcome-by the Superintendent
- B. Thank you to the members of the Board of Education for their support and development of the Budget
- C. Budget Highlights
 - 1. Budget submission of \$108,151,620
 - 2. No Tax Increase
 - 3. Additional staff proposed for 2014/2015.
 - 4. Expand and improve technology available in the classroom
 - 5. Continue Implementation of instructional priorities including updating curriculum so that it is aligned with the revised core curriculum content standards.
 - 6. Capital Projects will continue to be advanced.
 - 7. Continue work with the School Development Authority on the High School HVAC project and additions to QML and Buckshutem to address over crowding issues.
- D. Adjustments made to the advertized budget.

1.8.1 APPROVAL OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET

Motion by Mrs. Peterson, second by Mr. SmithBey approving the 2014-2015 School District Budget in the amount of \$108,151,620

With the following breakdown:

General Fund	\$93,309,808.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$14,841,812.00
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ -----</u>
TOTAL	\$108,151,620.00

With a Tax Levy as follows:

Current Expense	\$3,637,144.00
Debt Service	<u>\$ -----</u>
Total Tax Levy	\$3,637,144.00

Capital Projects & Equipment	\$2,681,514.00
Withdrawl from Maintenance Reserve	\$ 500,000.00

Professional Development has been budgeted not to exceed \$1,272,434.00
Travel expenses not to exceed \$528,892.00

Maximum dollar amounts for public relations, professional services and incentives and awards have been established and are detailed in the appropriations.
The general fund includes \$2,393,514.00 budgeted for Capital Projects.

Motion carried, roll call vote was 6-0.

The Business Administrator presented the budget (attached).
Discussion occurred over the use of fund balance.

The Board stated they still wish to discuss changing uniform pant color. Mr. Morgan asked for information on other district uniform colors.

Item 4.1.1 APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

To approve the retirement of Dr. Christopher Doran from the position of Administrator of Student Support Services at Bank Street Administration Building, effective September 1, 2014.

Item 9.2 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Perez, second by Mr. SmithBey approving the following Resolution for Executive Session:

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 PL 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances: and

Whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the City of Bridgeton, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The nature of the subject matters to be discussed is:
 - a. Update of Legal Matter related to construction
 - b. Matters of Personnel related to NJASK-4 Security Breach
 - c. ABA Negotiations
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matters will be made public when appropriate.
4. This Resolution will take effect immediately.

RETURN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Perez, second by Mr. SmithBey, approving the return to the public portion of the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried, roll call vote was 6-0.

Item 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Perez, second by Mr. SmithBey approving adjourning the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Motion carried, roll call vote was 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole M. Schoener
School Business Administrator

Executive Session Minutes
March 25, 2014

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Executive Session began at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Jones informed the Board of the findings of the state departments investigation into the NJASK-4 erasure analysis security breach. Erasure Marks 4 or more standard deviation caused them to examine the school. They stated they believe cheating occurred and require a corrective action plan. The State is turning the names of the individuals to the State board of examiners in an attempt to have their licenses revoked. The Board read the letter from the State dated 3/17/14. Mr. McCann asked what the motivation is, Dr. Jones explained it could be related to evaluation or the desire to be recognized as a successful teacher.

Mr. McCann informed the Board that last night we came to a tentative agreement with the ABA we will bring for a Board vote in April.

Mr. McCann updated on the lawsuit from Surety Mechanical. We received a proposal to settle for \$150,000 and award them the new bid. The board asked his legal advice. He responded he does not advise. By consensus they agreed and told him not to accept.

RETURN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion by Mr. Perez, second by Mr. SmithBey, approving the return to the public portion of the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried, roll call vote was 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole M. Schoener
School Business Administrator