

Board Minutes January 27, 2015

WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1790C Easton Turnpike
LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436

The special meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education was held on January 27, 2015 in the Western Wayne Administration Building located at 1970C Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, PA 18436. This meeting was rescheduled from January 26, 2015 due to inclement weather.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the January 20, 2015 edition of the Wayne Independent.

Board President Alvin Hollister called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

Mr. Hollister led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Secretary Rose Emmett took roll call. (9) Board Members were present and are listed as follows:

Board President – Alvin Hollister	Board Member – Andrew Gaudenzi
Board Vice President – Donald Olsommer Jr.	Board Member – David Lindow
Board Treasurer – William Gershey	Board Member – Donald McDonough
Board Member – Bernice Fiorella	Board Member – Doris Pliss
	Board Member – Gary Podunajec

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Clayton LaCoe, Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Sheehan, EverGreen Principal Ellen Faliskie, Robert D. Wilson Principal Maria Miller, Assistant High School Principal Paul Gregorski, Director of Special Education Tanya Carrelle, and Assistant Director of Special Education Cynthia LaRosa.

Administrators excused: High School Principal Dr. Matthew Barrett, Middle School Principal Kristen Donohue, Assistant Middle School Principal Mary Ann Olsommer, Early Intervention Supervisor Elizabeth Gregory, and Food Service Director Maria Liptak.

Public Recognition

Joe Espisito asked what percentage of the 6% increase from last year went towards direct education of students. 58% of our budget is spent on Instructional Expenses, this was further clarified that the 6% from last year was approximately 2% for regular expenses, 2% for retirement expenses, and 2% for special education expenses.

Roger Shaffer Sr. stated that pensions need to go away.

Roger Shaffer Jr. stated he thought we would be giving a false sense of security if we approved the proposed preliminary budget, but then still made cuts.

Rick Thorpe asked if being out of debt in 2021 would help alleviate taxes. What are plans for those funds? Miss Emmett stated there are several options for the money in 2021: Reduction of millage, set aside into Capital Reserve, go into general budget. The Board would need to decide what to do at that time.

Amanda Johnson asked about going through a line item budget. This will be something that can occur later in the budget process, not available right now.

Margaret Krayer asked what the status of the Pre-K program is. Mr. Hollister stated that all non-required programs will be under review and Pre-K is one of those, although no decisions have been made at this time.

Tony Renda talked about our taxes and the government. He wants to know why we are held to these timelines for budget, but the government is not. We get penalized if we don't stay within timeline, but they do not.

Mr. Gaudenzi and Mr. McDonough discussed our debt service and extending debt or possibly borrowing more money to run the day to day operations. Brenda Lanza commented that this would just be "kicking the can down the road".

Dr. LaCoe's Presentation

At this time Dr. LaCoe presented detailed information to the Board of Education with regards to the budget and what programs can be reviewed for possible changes and or cuts.

Mr. Hollister stated that the Board of Education has always been mindful of the District's finances and have been good custodians of our funds.

Rick Hoch stated that he is a taxpayer in the district and has children in the school system. He asked the Board to keep the programs we have in place for the benefit of the students.

Board Discussion

At this point in the meeting Mr. Hollister asked the Board of Education to discuss the motions presented tonight. Mrs. Pliss stated she is not for a 5.4% increase in taxes, but also does not want to cut programs. Mr. Gershey asked what Dr. LaCoe's recommendation was? Dr. LaCoe recommends going with the Proposed Preliminary Budget which is the most flexible at this point in time. Mr. McDonough stated that if we pass the 5.4% proposal, we can still pass less of an increase by the end of budgeting, it just gives more options. Mrs. Pliss had a concern about passing the proposed budget now, because in the past we hardly ever changed from this passage to final in June. Miss Emmett spoke about the fact that most of the past eight years we have passed a resolution to stay within the Index and because of that the Tentative Budget was not acted on until May, then when the June budget was finalized, there were not a lot of changes, this is not the same as passing a Proposed budget in January, there very well could be many changes between now and May/June timeframe. Mr. Gaudenzi asked Miss Emmett questions regarding the time frames of the referendum exceptions, what budget year do they stop offering those? Miss Emmett stated the 16-17 SY is the last for the retirement exception and the Special Education exception depends on our Special Education Expenses from year to year whether or not we are eligible. Mr. Lindow talked about how the changes to programing could diminish property values in the future if we eliminate certain programs. Mr. Olsommer stated that we are going to determine what set of options we will move forward with tonight, no one wants a tax increase, but also values the programs we offer to our students. Mr. Podunajec talked about the cost of salaries and benefits - that is where the expenses are. Mrs. Fiorella stated that if we say no to the increase, we still have options, like refinancing or pay to play for sports. Mr. McDonough asked the teachers for some consideration with no pay increase in 14-15, the rest of the staff did that during 2014-2015

and he wants to know if that is possible with the teachers also. Greg Butler, WWEA President, stated that the Association is more than willing to make concessions, but cannot do that until we meet to negotiate. We have not negotiated since October 2014. Mr. Hollister agreed that the Association has negotiated in good faith, but due to an injury Mr. Hollister has been unable to schedule any meeting up to this time. The Board will look at a few dates over the next few weeks to set up our next negotiation sessions.

Adoption of Proposed Preliminary Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Podunajec and seconded by Mr. Gershey to adopt the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Proposed Preliminary Budget showing estimated available resources of \$42,702,040 and estimated expenditures and ending fund balance in the amount of \$42,702,040 establishing real estate tax millage of 16.6720 with a 2% discount if the whole amount of the tax is paid within two months after the date of the tax notice; payment at face if the tax is paid within two months following the end of the discount period; penalty of 10% on all taxes not paid within four months after the date of the tax notice. This will be a 5.45% tax increase. ATTACHMENT – I

The motion carried with six affirmatives and three no votes from Mrs. Fiorella, Mr. Gaudenzi and Mr. Lindow.

Information items:

The Board of Education will schedule a special meeting during the month of February for the passage of the Preliminary Budget.

The Board of Education will hold an Executive session for personnel matters immediately following tonight’s public meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Olsommer to adjourn the special meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 7:46 P.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____

