

Board Minutes

May 11, 2021

WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
1970C Easton Turnpike
LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436

The special meeting for the Tentative Budget Approval was held on May 11, 2021 at 7:00 AM in the High School LGI. The meeting was open to the public.

The meeting was advertised in the legal section of the May 9, 2021 edition of the Scranton Times.

Board President Bernice Fiorella called the meeting to order at 7:03 A.M.

Mrs. Fiorella offered a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Board President – Bernice Fiorella	Board Member – William Gershey
Board Vice President – Rick Hoch	Board Member - Joseph Gombita
Board Treasurer – Jeffrey Gogolski	Board Member – Michael Ochlan
Board Member – Dana DeSiato	Board Member – Ethan Wood
Board Member – Gary Enslin	

Solicitor Matthew Meagher was present.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Dr. Matthew Barrett, Assistant to Superintendent Cindy LaRosa, and Business Manager/Board Secretary Rose Emmett.

All other Administrators were excused.

Adoption of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Gershey and seconded by Mr. Hoch to adopt the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Tentative Budget showing estimated available resources of \$57,338,604.00 and estimated expenditures and ending fund balance in the amount of \$57,338,604.00 establishing real estate tax millage of 17.6833 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. (ATTACHMENT I)

Board discussion: Mrs. Fiorella would like to see the increase at 1.5% or 1.75 % increase instead of 2%. She asked Miss Emmett what 1.75% would look like. Miss Emmett stated at 1.75% the tax millage would be 17.6400 and we would need to use \$1,734,000 of fund balance to balance the Budget. Mr. Enslin stated we have taxes from sold properties and we do not need a tax increase. He asked where do we see this windfall? Miss Emmett stated she increased the real

estate transfer tax to \$500,000 in the 2021-2022 budget, but is hesitant to increase any higher, not knowing where the real estate market will go over the next year. Attorney Meagher also stated the real estate market might fall. Mr. Wood stated that last year we kept the increase low, but we need to keep in mind that expenses keep increasing. He is in favor of the 2% increase. Mr. Gogolski agreed with Mr. Wood that we have to increase or look at hard cuts. Mr. Hoch also stated he is in favor of this motion, slow and steady to cover expenses.

The motion passed with five affirmatives and four no votes from Mrs. Fiorella, Mrs. DeSiato, Mr. Enslin, and Mr. Ochlan.

Adoption of the 2021-2022 Tax Resolutions

A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Gogolski to adopt the attached 2021-2022 Tax Resolutions. (ATTACHMENT II)

The motion passed with five affirmatives and four no votes from Mrs. Fiorella, Mrs. DeSiato, Mr. Enslin and Mr. Ochlan.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Hoch and seconded by Mrs. Fiorella to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Western Wayne Board of Education at 7:21 A.M.

The motion carried with all affirmatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose E. Emmett
Board Secretary

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED: _____