

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Friday – March 26, 2010 – 8:00 A.M.
MINUTES

Completed March 29, 2010
Convened at 8:10 A.M.

Call to Order

Dr. Diane Campbell, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was achieved at 8:10 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Diane Campbell, President, led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

T. Missy Balmir
Alexander Brown
Elizabeth Johnson
Harry Luna – arrived 8:30 a.m.
Donald O. Shelton
Nicola Tatum – arrived 8:40 a.m.
L. Diane Campbell

Excused Absent:

Marcellus Smith

Superintendent of Schools - Rodney Lofton - Present

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Jayne Howard, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on.

On the rules of this act, the Trenton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time and place, therefore posted in the Central Services Building, 108 North Clinton Avenue, City Clerk's Office, City Hall and the Times. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Formal action will take place at this meeting.

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Adoption Of Agenda

President Campbell stated there is one item on today's agenda, namely Board Action on the 2010-2011 Budget. She asked for a motion to adopt.

Motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Johnson to adopt the agenda.
Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir	X		
Alexander Brown	X		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna		not present for vote	
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith		absent	
Nicola Tatum		not present for vote	
L. Diane Campbell	X		

Prior to the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Vice President Brown stated that the budget, which was tabled at the Regular Board Meeting on March 22, now represents an accurate picture of the current fiscal status of the District. Mr. Brown said this situation exists throughout New Jersey and that in many other districts, staff members are agreeing to salary cuts in order to maintain essential services. He said the budget as presented today allows the Board to pursue options that will benefit the District.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Patricia Vogt, President of Trenton Educational Secretaries Association, expressed concern about the potential number of secretaries whose jobs are slated for elimination.

Mr. Joseph Marazzo, President of Trenton Administrators and Supervisors Association, asked who will be performing various important and/or legally required functions after the positions responsible for said functions are eliminated.

Reverend Toby Sanders, parent and pastor in the community, spoke about the need for everyone to work together and understand each other.

Students Myles and Martise Irving spoke in support of Stokes Elementary School.

Ms. Ann Sciarrotta, Vice President of Trenton Educational Secretaries Association, noted that new administrative positions are being created even though many secretarial positions are being cut.

Mr. Elroy Young, a security officer at Kilmer School, spoke about the security officers standing with the Board.

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Mr. Joe Santo, President of Trenton Education Association, spoke in general terms about the negotiation process and what that means in the current fiscal climate.

Ms. Sherry Watkins, Vice President/Security for the Trenton Business & Technical Employees Association, expressed concern about the possible privatization of security services for the District.

Ms. Tanisha Powell, President of the Trenton Business & Technical Employees Association, spoke about the effect that privatizing and/or reducing the number of security officers will have on students and employees of the District.

Mr. Eric Jackson, Trenton resident, also expressed concern about the possible privatization of the security forces.

Ms. Thelma Griffin, Trenton resident, expressed opposition to the proposed closing of Stokes School.

Mr. Emerson Simmons, Trenton resident, felt that the community should work together on cost-cutting strategies. He took exception with the new school funding formula being used by the State.

Ms. Michelle Tarver, a security officer at TCHS, expressed concern about the possible privatization of security.

Ms. Loretta Young-Jacobs, parent, spoke about issues with her child at the high school.

Ms. Debra Parker King, parent, spoke against the proposed closing of Stokes School.

Ms. Ramonda Rogers also expressed concern about the proposed closing of Stokes School.

Ms. Stacy Taylor expressed concern about the proposed closing of Stokes School. She also spoke of her support for the security officers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Lofton said this year's budget is "children first", and classroom teachers will not be affected. This has necessitated cuts in other areas. He also spoke briefly on the possibility of privatizing Security, the budget process in general under the new Governor, and the decisions behind the closing of Stokes, Rivera and Harrison Schools.

Dr. Campbell spoke about Mayor Palmer's planned rally at City Hall on Tuesday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m. to protest the funding cuts the City is experiencing. Dr. Campbell encouraged all interested parties to attend this rally.

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BOARD ACTION – 2010/2011 BUDGET

Dr. Campbell asked for a motion to approve the 2010/2011 Budget. She asked for any additional Board comments. Ms. Balmir wished to go on record as opposing the budget. Mr. Luna expressed concern for the security guards, but he said the budget must be submitted today or the situation could be much worse. Ms. Tatum spoke as a parent of children in the District and said she hoped everyone can work together to minimize the impact of the proposed reduction in staff.

Motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Shelton to approve the 2010/2011 Budget. With six (6) Yes votes and one (1) No vote, the 2010/2011 Budget was **approved**.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
T. Missy Balmir		X	
Alexander Brown	X		
Elizabeth Johnson	X		
Harry Luna	X		
Donald O. Shelton	X		
Marcellus Smith	absent		
Nicola Tatum	X		
L. Diane Campbell	X		

It was motioned and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary