

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Friday – March 19, 2010 – 8:00 A.M.
MINUTES

Completed March 19, 2010
Convened at 8:15 A.M.

Call to Order

Dr. Diane Campbell, President, called the meeting to order at 8:15 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
Donald O. Shelton
Marcellus Smith
Nicola Tatum
L. Diane Campbell

Absent:

Harry Luna

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 advised that the agenda consists of a discussion and presentation of 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 | absent | | |
| Donald O. Shelton | X | | |
| Marcellus Smith | X | | |
| Nicola Tatum | X | | |
| L. Diane Campbell | X | | |

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE 2010/2011 BUDGET

Mr. Lofton expressed concern about the necessity of making reductions in staff. He discussed the timeline for putting together the Budget with \$12 million in cuts.

Ms. Howard discussed the specifics of the funding cuts as relates to each bargaining unit:

- Confidential Employees – 8 of 18 positions were cut (44%)
- Substitute Caller – position was reduced
- TASA – 25 positions were cut (31%)
- TEA – 34 positions were cut - none are classroom positions (3%)
- PARA – no reductions (0%)
- B&T – 17 positions were cut (11%)
- TESA – 40 positions were cut (44%)
- M&L – 11 positions were cut (35%)
- Custodians – 6 positions were cut (4%)

Ms. Howard called the Board's attention to the Organizational Chart which reflects a total reorganization of the District.

Mr. Lofton said items not cut in the budget include those discussed in meetings with Unit Leaders, such as after school programs, sports programs and before school programs. The District is hoping to use Title I money or ARRA money to fund professional development that is needed at the schools. Mr. Lofton said that, although closing some schools was suggested as a cost savings, it was felt that the infrastructure will not support that at this time. He said Unit Leaders felt they did not have enough information to discuss possible givebacks, and the only item that would have been considered in this area is

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tuition reimbursement. It was also suggested to close the Central Services building. This will not be done, but many positions in the building will be cut.

Board Members had questions/comments related to:

- Status of plans to implement a transportation system to save money in light of the budget cuts
- Providing a thorough and efficient education with the reduced staffing levels
- Contacting the Governor with a formal expression of the Board's opposition to the funding cuts
- Method of estimating salary savings in light of bumping rights
- Redistribution of workload as shown on the Organizational Chart (Mr. Lofton reminded the Board that there is some flexibility in using Title I or ARRA funding to fill some of the gaps)

At this time, Dr. Campbell asked for members of the public to share their thoughts with the Board.

Ms. Joyce Kersey expressed concern about the process for informing the public and affected staff members of the staffing cuts, so the Board may consider their input and ideas on other ways to save money, prior to being given a Budget for voting.

Mr. Joe Santo, President of TEA, asked for clarification on positions that were mentioned earlier by Mr. Brown. A concentrated discussion ensued on methods of funding specific positions, and the possibility of staff retirements being used to eliminate positions through attrition.

Dr. Campbell felt the Board should meet again prior to voting on the Budget. Small group meetings will be arranged prior to the Monday, March 22 Regular Board Meeting, at which time the Board is scheduled to act on the 2010/2011 Budget.

It was motioned and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

ADJOURN 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary