

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

February 13, 1989

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey, was held in the Board Room, 375 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, February 13, 1989 at 7:30 p.m., with Dr. Anthony N. Baratta, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Dr. Baratta read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Special Meeting was made on January 24, 1989. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance of the Board Office.
2. Mailed to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News and the Nutley Journal.
3. Mailed to the Nutley Township Clerk.

"The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the tentative budget for the 1989-90 school year.

"Formal action may be taken."

CALL OF ROLL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, Mrs. Sally Goodson, Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Charles J. Piro, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel. Absent: Mr. Gerard T. Restaino. Approximately 23 citizens were present.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Agenda Items Only):

Mrs. Judy Sorensen, 230 Satterthwaite Avenue, stated that a group of citizens were here tonight to express their concerns regarding the German language program and its role in the curriculum.

Dr. Fadule questioned if they were asking about the role of German in the curriculum as it pertains to the budget, to which Mrs. Sorensen responded in the affirmative.

Dr. Fadule commented that the entire question as to whether our budget will accommodate the teaching of the German language has been very controversial over the last several weeks, adding that no one on the Board or in the administration would want

to consider the prospect of eliminating some portion of our educational program, and it is a very unfortunate circumstance where we are considering not teaching the German language program. Dr. Fadule stated that one of the questions is whether we will conduct a German 4 and 5 section next year, and another question is whether we will go back to the beginning and conduct a German language education program in our curriculum.

Dr. Fadule explained the numbers of students in the various levels of the German program and the possibility of having a total of eleven students in the program next year. If all eleven students wish to take the course and can be scheduled, Dr. Fadule stated that he is all in favor of teaching that course.

With regard to reinstating the German language program in our schools, Dr. Fadule stated that he would like to do that since no one wants to see the program dropped. Dr. Fadule further added that over several years, it became evident to us that it was not feasible to continue the program. Dr. Fadule stressed that we are very willing to work with anybody on this matter as it is a very sad and unfortunate situation when we are faced with dropping such an important program from our curriculum.

Mrs. Christa Lordi, 191 Coeyman Avenue, asked why questions were not asked earlier with regard to the declining numbers. Dr. Fadule responded that questions were asked for several years; this was not a rash decision.

Mr. Sig Bogdanowicz, 208 Alexander Avenue, asked if it was possible to obtain a copy of the budget. Mr. Sincaglia replied that he could have a copy of the advertised legal budget. Mr. Sincaglia further explained that the item on tonight's agenda is not the formal adoption of the budget. That will take place a month from now. Tonight, a tentative budget will be adopted to send to the County Superintendent for review. The budget book will be ready before next month's Public Hearing.

Mr. Bogdanowicz stated that he felt the Board should have been concerned several years ago when it began to see declining numbers in the German language program.

Mr. Robert Bansemir, 245 Whitford Avenue, commented that if German 1 were offered in the fall and German 1-5 classes were combined, interest would be stimulated, and he was sure enrollment would increase. Dr. Fadule said that this would be checked into again as seventh grade students will soon be enrolling for their fall classes. He added that he would not want to combine five levels into one class since that is difficult from the point of view of the instructional aspects.

Mrs. Lordi stated that she felt Dr. Fadule's figures were valid, but felt that the priority decisions should be reconsidered. She added that there could not even be a German 1 class unless some promotional activities are done. She also felt that children of many grades could be taught in the same class. The problem is

starting the program over again from the beginning. Dr. Fadule stated that he would not recommend the teaching of five separate and distinct levels of German in one classroom.

Mrs. Scheckel stated that her son had taken part in the German program, and because of scheduling, was in classes containing different grade levels. This was very difficult for him and for the teacher. Her son felt he did not get the attention of the teacher, and the teacher felt she could not devote the time to him because of the other students. Mrs. Scheckel added that when she sees classes that contain three and four children, it is not cost effective.

Mr. John Deuber, 24 White Terrace, stated that Dr. Fadule has done an excellent job, and his son was prepared very well for college by the Nutley schools. Mr. Deuber added that the German language is used in the scientific disciplines, and he feels there is a problem with the fact that many students are not aware that German is essential for the sciences.

Mr. Richard McEvoy, 70 North Spring Garden Avenue, commented that the Board's job should be stimulation rather than negation. He felt the students should be prepared for the sciences we so badly need.

Dr. Baratta stated that the Board is very pleased that the citizens came to tonight's meeting. He added that it is difficult to get people to go into the sciences.

Mr. Rusignuolo stated that all the citizens' remarks are very well taken, and he encourages the administration to speak to the middle school students and their parents, as well as to ninth graders, because languages are very valuable.

Mr. Bogdanowicz commented that the scientific field is declining, and he added that we need to promote the sciences.

Mrs. Sorensen introduced two prospective ninth grade German language students, stating that they were discouraged from signing up for German.

Mr. McEvoy stated that he understood that German 4 is not even offered on the schedule, and asked if that were true. Dr. Fadule stated that if we can schedule the students, the course will be offered.

Mrs. Geraldine Magyarits, 180 Coeyman Avenue, stated that her daughter's schedule has already been made up, and German was not offered.

Jill Sorensen and Kirsten Sandberg, high school students, stated that they had taken German for four years and would like to continue. They added that if German 1 were to be continued, the students have to know of its availability.

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET:

Mrs. Scheckel presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Rusignuolo. On a roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts a tentative budget for the 1989/1990 school year in the amount of:

Current Expense	\$21,227,867.00
Debt Service	<u>99,466.25</u>
Total Budget	\$21,327,333.25, of which

the following amount shall be raised by local tax levy:

Current Expense	\$17,153,648.00
Debt Service	<u>99,445.25</u>
Total	\$17,253,093.25

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary be authorized to submit this budget to the County Superintendent for approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon receiving the approval of the County Superintendent the Secretary be authorized to publish the 1988/1989 budget in The Nutley Sun.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION - 1989/1990:

Mrs. Scheckel presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Goodson. On a roll call vote, the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nutley Board of Education requests the Essex County Superintendent of Schools to approve the proposed 1989/1990 appropriation for Pupil Transportation in the amount of \$458,829.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Dr. Baratta requested Mr. Sincaglia to read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will be discussing matters exempt from public discussion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adjourn to closed Executive Session at this time, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of the discussions will be made public by inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Board of Education, or when the reasons for discussing such matters in closed session no longer exist.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Rusignuolo and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



President



Secretary

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Date