

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

March 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, March 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) and NJSA 18A:22-11, proper notice of this Special Meeting was made on February 28, 1989 and March 2, 1989. Said Notice was:

1. Published in The Nutley Sun on March 2, 1989.
2. Posted at the entrance of the Board Office.
3. Mailed or delivered, and/or telephoned to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News and the Nutley Journal.
4. Mailed or delivered, and/or telephoned to the Nutley Township Clerk.

"The purpose of this meeting is:

1. Conduct the Public Hearing on the 1989-90 school budget.
2. Adopt the 1989-90 school budget.
3. Adopt a resolution regarding the 1989 school election.
4. Conduct such other business that may properly come before the Board of Education.

"Formal action will be taken."

ROLL CALL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mrs. Sally Goodson, Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr. and Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo. Late: Mr. Sam P. Battaglia (7:35 p.m.), Mr. Charles J. Piro (7:33 p.m.) and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel (7:36 p.m.). Absent: Mr. Gerard T. Restaino. Approximately 30 citizens were present.

PRESENTATION OF 1989/1990 BUDGET:

Dr. Fadule stated that Mr. Sincaglia, Secretary/Business Administrator, would review the budget without interruption and upon the conclusion of this review, Dr. Baratta will accept questions from the public.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that the school district budget is the product of a great deal of work beginning with requests from the teachers and ending with the budget submission to the County Superintendent. The Board's primary purpose is to continue the fine educational system that we have. Mr. Sincaglia explained that in Nutley, we believe we have an outstanding and cost-effective school district, and we have the information to back up the claim.

Mr. Piro entered

Mr. Sincaglia stated that Nutley is able to provide an outstanding education for approximately 10% less than other districts in the state and over 20% less than other districts in the county. The budget increase is 7.9% over the current year. He noted that in our last fiscal year there was a \$253 increase in cost per pupil. He explained that New Jersey as a whole increased by \$299 per pupil, northern New Jersey K-12 districts by \$315 per pupil and all Essex County districts increased by an average of \$405 per pupil. Mr. Sincaglia stated that he feels this is a sound budget.

Mr. Battaglia entered

Mr. Sincaglia then explained the revenues which the district receives, adding that the amount the Board is appropriating from Surplus is an exceedingly high amount for a district in this county.

Mrs. Scheckel entered

Mr. Sincaglia noted that the district was receiving less than required amounts in various parts of our State aid. The total amount of aid that had been removed from our entitlements was \$201,529. He pointed out that had we been receiving this aid, it would have been of direct benefit to the local taxpayer.

Mr. Sincaglia further explained that the overwhelming portion of the budget is spent on salaries. He then explained that with regard to Account 120D, the money allotted is primarily for expenses incurred with regard to the "Right-to-Know" law dealing with hazardous substances and a new Federal law, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act.

Mr. Kucinski, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, read the following statement:

"As Chairman of the Facilities Committee, I think it is important that the public understand that our Asbestos Management Plan, which is required under a new Federal law, must be submitted to the State Department of Health no later than May 9 of this year.

"The financial effect of that plan is still being determined, however, due to the timing of the plan submission and the timing for the submission of this budget, that impact will be addressed mainly in future budgets."

Mr. Kucinski also thanked the members of the Facilities Committee, Mrs. Goodson, Mr. Hermo and Mr. Piro for their hard work. He also thanked Mrs. Scheckel, who filled in when necessary to meet with the consultants to start preparing our plan.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed each major account grouping and highlighted significant changes which are taking place next year.

Mr. Sincaglia commented on the current enrollment in the school district and the recent pattern of enrollment change. He noted that there had been a very small decline in enrollment this year and that relatively small declines would occur for the next year or two. He also pointed out that elementary enrollment this year had actually increased above last year's enrollment.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed the total amount of State aid that was being provided to Essex County school districts. Nutley ranked tenth out of twenty districts in total amount of aid and twelfth in the amount provided per pupil. Mr. Sincaglia then made a comparison to the amount per pupil received by Bloomfield and Belleville. He stated that Bloomfield would be receiving \$272 more per pupil, which for Nutley would represent an additional \$940,000 and that Belleville would be receiving an additional \$589 per pupil, which for Nutley would mean in excess of an additional \$2,000,000. That kind of aid would have a most significant impact on lowering the local property tax burden.

Mr. Sincaglia amplified some of his earlier comments about Nutley's use of Surplus in the 1989-90 budget. He noted that eight districts in the county were not using any Surplus, and if Newark was excluded, the average use of Surplus was slightly over \$200,000 as compared to Nutley's \$600,000.

Mr. Sincaglia then spent some time comparing total cost per pupil for the last complete school year. Nutley's cost for 1987-88 was \$4,827, excluding transportation and tuition expenses which are not used when this comparison is made by the New Jersey School Boards Association. The comparisons noted show that Nutley was spending considerably less than other Essex County districts, other North Jersey districts of similar size, other New Jersey districts of a similar socio-economic nature and all New Jersey districts as a whole.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that if Nutley spent just the "average" of various groups in 1987-88, our expenditures would have been increased as follows:

"D-F-G" Districts	-	by approximately \$750,000
All New Jersey	-	by approximately \$1,500,000
North Jersey K-12	-	by approximately \$2,800,000
County	-	by approximately \$3,500,000

Mr. Sincaglia commented that over the last three years, school taxes have gone up 18%, County taxes increased 15% and Municipal taxes increased 68%, adding that the schools have been responsive to the taxpayers. Mr. Sincaglia further commented that the school budget is the only one on which citizens can vote.

#### HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mr. Frank Solimo, 29 Briar Lane, expressed concerns about taxes.

Mrs. Nancy Byrne, 32 Woodland Avenue, stated that she feels the district is lacking in the area of children's health and safety since there are only two school nurses for the five elementary schools.

Mrs. Daisy Rios, 31 Woodland Avenue, also expressed her concern regarding the number of elementary school nurses and asked if the Board was planning to have nurses in the schools for more hours per day. Dr. Fadule replied that this question has been examined carefully. For many years, when there were twice the number of students enrolled, there were always two nurses for the five elementary schools, and no questions were ever raised. He added that our principals feel the present system is adequate for our needs, and this budget does not include the addition of any more nurses.

Mrs. Sera Shuster, 462 Chestnut Street, stated that she had been told the present band uniforms were ten years old and she felt this was not so. Dr. Fadule stated that he agreed with her. Mrs. Shuster then asked why new uniforms were being purchased, to which Dr. Fadule responded. Mrs. Shuster then questioned what the actual percentage increase in the budget is, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied. Mrs. Shuster further asked when the district would receive the new band uniforms. Mr. Sincaglia stated that we should have them before school opens in September.

Mr. Thomas Ferreri, 17 Faber Place, expressed his feeling that the district is doing a very good job, but urged the Board to address the problem of the State aid funding formula. Dr. Fadule agreed that this is a problem since the formula is based on property values, which are very high in Nutley, rather than also taking into consideration the income of the citizens.

Mr. David DelPolito, 87 Evergreen Avenue, questioned how many band uniforms were being purchased, to which Mr. Sincaglia responded approximately 100. Dr. Fadule added that band uniforms are generally replaced every six or seven years, depending on their condition.

Mr. DelPolito expressed his concerns regarding the number of elementary nurses, gym teachers and other teachers of special subjects. Dr. Fadule replied that with the declining enrollments, we have had to present an educationally sound program that is also fiscally responsible.

Mr. Anthony Nisivoccia, 7 Tennis Place, expressed his concerns regarding the tax impact on senior citizens and questioned class size in the schools, to which Dr. Fadule responded.

Mr. Greg Nicholls, 62 Bromley Place, asked if the district applies for any competitive funding that may be available through the State, to which Mr. Sincaglia and Dr. Fadule responded. Dr. Fadule added that we have been successful in some of the smaller grants.

Mr. Sig Bogdanowicz, 208 Alexander Avenue, remarked that he thought all asbestos work had been completed. Mr. Kucinski replied that the district had done what was required by the State several years ago, but new Federal standards were adopted which are much more stringent, and we will have to bear the burden. Mr. Sincaglia also responded.

Mr. Bogdanowicz also asked if the Board had considered having the employees share in the costs of insurance. Mr. Sincaglia replied that that is a negotiable item, and further, as members of the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program, the district must pay the employee's share of insurance.

Mr. James Byrne, 32 Woodland Avenue, questioned where in the budget he could find the salaries for the two elementary nurses, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied. Mr. Byrne then questioned the cost to the district for the nurses traveling from school to school, to which Mr. Sincaglia and Dr. Fadule replied. Mr. Byrne made comments regarding the microcomputers to be purchased and the possibility of using IBM clones. Mr. Sincaglia and Dr. Fadule responded.

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, questioned what is meant by approved transportation, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied. Mrs. Rubino then asked how many teachers, of those who were let go last April, returned in September. Dr. Fadule replied that five teachers returned in September.

Mrs. Rios questioned if the high school students could have a fund raiser to pay the cost of the band uniforms. Dr. Baratta stated that the Board considers all phases of our program as vital and integral, and we would not expect the

students to have to raise money for band uniforms. Dr. Fadule added that there are fund raising activities for trips.

Dr. Baratta expressed his appreciation to the public for attending this evening's meeting since the matter of the school budget is vital.

ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE 1989/1990 SCHOOL YEAR:

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:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley adopted a tentative budget for the 1989/1990 school year on February 13, 1989, and

WHEREAS, said tentative budget was properly advertised on March 2, 1989, and

WHEREAS, the Public Hearing on the budget was conducted on March 13, 1989,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the official budget for the 1989/1990 school year in the following amounts:

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 place on the ballot at the Annual School Election to be held on April 4, 1989, the proposal to approve the Current Expense portion of the 1989/1990 school budget. (The complete budget for 1989/1990 is attached as Appendix 1.)

SCHOOL ELECTION:

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:

March 13, 1989

WHEREAS, the Annual School Election shall take place on April 4, 1989, and

WHEREAS, at said election the legal voters of the school district will elect three members to the Board of Education for a term of three years, and

WHEREAS, the legal voters of the school district will vote on the proposed tax levy for Current Expense for the 1989/1990 school year in the amount of \$17,153,648,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Board of Education is hereby directed to post notices on each schoolhouse in the district and the following named public places: Township Hall, The Nutley Sun Office, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Gary's Pharmacy, Little's Pharmacy, Fred's Party Shop and Griffith Shade Shop, no later than March 25, 1989, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the boundaries of the sections of the school district, the voters of which shall be entitled to vote at the respective polling places, be as herein designated:

Polling District No. 1  
Lincoln School  
Ward 1 - Districts 1, 2 & 7

Polling District No. 2  
Radcliffe School  
Ward 1 - Districts 4 & 6  
Ward 2 - District 2

Polling District No. 3  
Franklin School  
Ward 1 - Districts 3 & 5

Polling District No. 4  
Yantacaw School  
Ward 2 - Districts 1, 5 & 6

Polling District No. 5  
Yantacaw School  
Ward 3 - Districts 3, 4 & 5

Polling District No. 6  
Washington School  
Ward 3 - Districts 1, 2, 6 & 7

Polling District No. 7  
Spring Garden School  
Ward 2 - Districts 3 & 4

and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the polls be open between the hours of 2:30 and 9:00 p.m.

March 13, 1989

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Rusignuolo, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Anthony N. Baratta  
President

John C. Rusignuolo  
Secretary

March 27, 1989  
Date