

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

April 5, 1993

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, April 5, 1993 at 7:30 p.m., with Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Battaglia read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975) and NJSA 18A:22-11 and 22-12, proper notice of this Special Meeting was made on March 22, 1993. Said Notice was:

1. Published in The Nutley Sun on March 25, 1993.
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 1993-94 school budget.
2. Adopt the 1993-94 school budget.
3. Adopt a resolution regarding the 1993 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. John G. Griwert, Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mrs. Aileen Hresko, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel. Late: Mr. Charles J. Piro (7:33 p.m.). Approximately 75 citizens were present.

Mr. Piro entered

PRESENTATION OF 1993/1994 BUDGET:

Dr. Fadule commented that this is an important evening for all of us. He introduced Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Chairman of the Budget Review Committee.

Mr. Kucinski noted that the Committee had reviewed the budget by line item and explained the process by which the Committee arrives at a budget which it brings to the full Board for approval. He explained that the Committee and entire Board had cut 1-1/2 million dollars from the original proposals. He noted that of the 15 schools in Essex County, Nutley is 12th in spending per student.

Mr. Kucinski indicated that last year's HSPT test results rated Nutley number one in our state district factor group, and every grade K-7 had a score at or above the 90th percentile on the IOWA tests. Mr. Kucinski stressed that the district is doing a good job fiscally while keeping high educational standards. He also noted that in 1986-87, 14.9% of the budget was given in state aid while today, the district receives 10.9% of its budget in state aid. Also, he added that other factors such as a 15% increase in health insurance costs made it more difficult to bring the budget in under cap.

Mr. Kucinski thanked the members of the Budget Review Committee, Mr. Hermo, Mrs. Hresko and Mr. Rusignuolo, for the hours they had spent in putting together this budget. He noted that he felt a 4.3% over all increase in a nearly 30 million dollar budget was outstanding.

Mr. Sincaglia explained that putting together the budget this year was made more difficult because the structure (chart of accounts) of the budget had to be totally changed to conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). He noted how he and his bookkeeper, Mrs. Nazare, had developed a chart of accounts pursuant to the state model, and he explained that one major difference in dealing with GAAP was that any equipment with a unit cost under \$500 is now considered a supply item. Mr. Sincaglia further indicated that the 4.3% increase over the 1992-93 budget resulted in a budget that is below the state budget cap.

Mr. Sincaglia then explained the Revenue portion of the budget, indicating that \$400,000 was appropriated from Surplus which is a 45% increase over last year, adding that this is less money that is raised from taxes. He also noted that the district will receive less state aid even though the enrollment had increased.

Mr. Sincaglia then made mention of Capital Outlay, noting that there is a tax levy in that account. He indicated that Special Schools is the summer school program. Mr. Sincaglia explained that the General Fund is essentially the day-to-day operation of the school district and consists of Current Expense, Capital Outlay and Special Schools. He further noted that Debt Service is what it has to be to retire outstanding debt authorized by the citizens at a referendum from years ago.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed each account grouping in the General Fund portion of the budget and highlighted significant changes which would take place next year.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that Debt Service is the highest amount it will ever be unless we incur new debt because this will be the first year of principal payment of the referendum approved by the voters in 1990. He explained that the referendum was for asbestos work, removal of underground fuel tanks, a major reroofing job at the high school and upgrading the heating plant. Mr. Sincaglia further explained that one more underground tank must be removed, as well as bidding on exterior doors and minor asbestos work. He indicated that the remainder of the high school bond would be paid off in three years.

Mr. Sincaglia then noted that the district enrollment was up 130-1/2 students this year, which was 14% of the entire enrollment increase in the county. Nutley had the fourth highest increase in the total number of students, and this is the highest since the 1986-87 school year. He indicated that the district has 3500 students now, and a small increase is anticipated for next year.

Mr. Sincaglia explained the state aid received by the district is \$877 per pupil, noting that a local newspaper had reported that figure as the district's cost. He commented that the district is near the bottom in the county in cost per pupil and near the middle in state aid received. He also noted that out of the additional 43.3 million dollars in state aid for the county, 43 million dollars went to Newark, East Orange, Irvington and Orange, and 94% of that 43 million dollars went to Newark and East Orange.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed the HSPT test results and the corresponding costs per pupil of various districts in our "G" district factor group. He then compared the test results and costs per pupil with other districts in Essex County that are in a higher district factor group, summarizing by stating that Nutley's scores are up with the best districts, and our costs are way down, and this has been consistent from year to year.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that the last page of the budget book shows what the ballot will look like, and making particular mention that this year there will be a worded question on the ballot which represents the \$24,084,979 tax levy necessary to support the budget.

Mr. Sincaglia concluded by indicating that this is a responsible budget, worthy of support, and he hoped that everyone casts their vote on election day.

Mr. Battaglia thanked Mr. Sincaglia for his thorough presentation of the budget, and Mrs. Scheckel thanked Mr. Sincaglia for his usual superb job.

Mr. Piro noted that he has been a Board member for about ten years, and the budget used to be done by the Board as a whole, but about three years ago, Mrs. Scheckel, then Board President, reinstated the Budget Review Committee. He remarked that people do not realize the amount of work and time which is spent on formulating a budget, and he commended Mr. Kucinski and the Budget Review Committee for having done an excellent job.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Agenda Items Only):

Mr. Joseph Pelaia, 104 Mountainview Avenue, reviewed accomplishments of the district and expressed his support for the budget, noting that the children and taxpayers are receiving more than what they paid for, and the increase in students says that the people of Nutley have voted with their children because if it were a bad system, people would not move to Nutley with their children; they would flee.

Mr. George Hayes, 518 Prospect Street, asked if it was correct that the vote on April 20 will be for the tax levy to fund this budget but not necessarily the allocation which is shown in the budget book, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied in the affirmative. Mr. Hayes indicated that people might quibble about where funds were being allocated, but the budget as a whole should be supported.

Mr. Hayes then questioned what was the over all objective in dealing with the budget. Mr. Sincaglia responded that existing programs were looked at to determine if there were anything which should not be maintained. He noted that the Computer Applications/Keyboarding Course represented a new direction, and for individual items, supporting existing programs and what was needed to define them.

Mr. Griwert indicated that from a Board member's perspective, the main thrust was to maintain and improve the quality of education at a cost which is responsible to the taxpayers.

Mr. Hayes then asked a question regarding the large increase in monies budgeted for instructional aides and whether something new is planned for next year. Mr. Sincaglia explained that the budget was struck as of where things were on December 1 before any transfers were made, so changes could be forthcoming. Dr. Votto noted that the aides assist in physical education classes that exceed a certain number, and they are also involved in Right to Know work.

Mr. Hayes also questioned what is included in the category for dues and miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Sincaglia replied that the major portion of the money is for dues for the New Jersey School Boards Association, adding that legislatively, the Board is required to belong, and the dues are in excess of \$20,000.

ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE 1993/1994 SCHOOL YEAR:

Mr. Piro presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Rusignuolo. 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 1993/1994 school year on March 1, 1993, and

WHEREAS, said tentative budget was properly advertised on March 25, 1993, and

WHEREAS, the Public Hearing on the budget was conducted on April 5, 1993,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the official budget for the 1993/1994 school year in the following amounts:

General Fund	
Current Expense	\$27,540,021
Capital Outlay	270,232
Special Schools	<u>29,370</u>
Sub-Total	\$27,839,623
Special Revenue Fund	707,879
Debt Service	<u>285,985</u>
Total Budget	\$28,833,487, of which

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the following amount shall be raised by local tax levy:

General Fund	\$24,084,979
Debt Service	<u>264,138</u>
Total	\$24,349,117

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary be authorized to place on the ballot at the Annual School Election to be held on April 20, 1993, the proposal to approve the General Fund tax levy portion of the 1993/1994 school budget. (The complete budget for 1993/1994 is attached as Appendix 1.)

SCHOOL ELECTION:

Mr. Piro 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 Annual School Election shall take place on April 20, 1993, 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 General Fund for the 1993/1994 school year in the amount of \$24,084,979,

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, Gary's Pharmacy, Little's Pharmacy, Fred's Party Shop and Griffith Shade Shop, no later than April 10, 1993, 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. 4
Yantacaw School
Ward 2 - Districts 1, 5 & 6

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

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

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

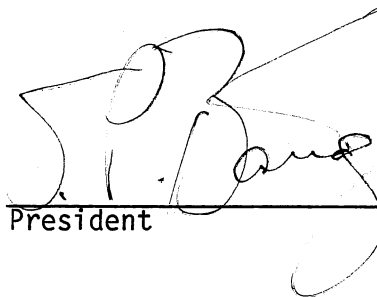
Polling District No. 6
Washington School
Ward 3 - Districts 1, 2, 6 & 7

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

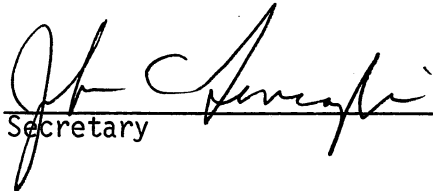
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the polls be open between the hours of 2:30 and 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Griwert, seconded by Mr. Kucinski, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



President



Secretary

April 26, 1993

Date