

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

April 11, 1994

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 11, 1994 at 7:30 p.m., with Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Vice-President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Hermo 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, 1994. Said Notice was:

1. Published in The Nutley Sun on April 7, 1994.
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 1994-95 school budget.
2. Adopt the 1994-95 school budget.
3. Adopt a resolution regarding the 1994 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, Mrs. Aileen Hresko and Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr. Absent: Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, Mr. Charles J. Piro, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel. Approximately 80 citizens were present.

PRESENTATION OF 1994/1995 BUDGET:

Dr. Fadule noted that, as in past years, this budget is something of which we are very proud, and once again, we have fulfilled our responsibility of providing a very sound educational program in a very fiscally responsible manner. Dr. Fadule indicated that the district is very high in terms of achievement, and there is ample information which shows clearly that our cost per pupil is very low. He added that in Essex County alone the average cost per pupil is about \$2,000 more than in Nutley. He concluded that this should be taken into consideration as this budget is viewed.

Mr. Kucinski thanked Dr. Fadule and the members of the Budget Committee for their hard work on this budget. He said that the Committee and the entire Board had spent many hours trying to bring in a fiscally responsible budget with an increase of 4.9%. Mr. Kucinski explained that 1-1/2 million dollars had been cut from the budget, but he felt the budget to be adopted was sound. He indicated that another nursing position would be added for the elementary schools. Mr. Kucinski also thanked the entire Board for their work on this budget.

Mr. Sincaglia indicated that in his presentation he would give a general overview of the process, problems and figures and would speak about some of the highlights. Mr. Sincaglia explained how the budget process begins in September at the school level, and he explained each step until the budget is presented at tonight's Public Hearing.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that the budget has revenue and expenditure sides. He stated that revenue sources are limited in number - state and federal aid, tuition, taxes and a few minor other items. He explained the time frame for receiving state aid information, noting that this year, it was delayed because of the inauguration of a new Governor and her request for a month's extension in the submission date of her budget.

Mr. Sincaglia indicated that the time constraints placed on districts for the adoption and submission of budgets to the county superintendents as a result of this one-month delay in receiving state aid figures made an already busy time even more difficult. He added that things were made even more difficult because districts were not aware of what the budget cap would be, so we operated on last year's figures.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that there were no program cuts made in this budget even though the district's budget cap was reduced by 3/4 of one per cent to 5.56%. He indicated that the Board of Education was able to once again submit a budget which is under the cap by over \$47,000. Last year, we were under cap by over a quarter million dollars. He explained that there is a price to be paid by going below cap because you are limiting the amount next year's budget can go up by the amount you lessen it this year. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned that is why some districts always budget right up to cap, but that is not the philosophy of this Board of Education.

Mr. Sincaglia explained that the state aid we receive this year will be \$83,000 less than we received in 1987-88, seven budgets ago. At that time, Nutley's state aid represented about 15% of total revenue, and next year it is something under 9%. Nutley will be receiving \$721 per child, which represents a loss of \$488,000 from one year ago.

Mr. Sincaglia then discussed Nutley's enrollment increase over the last two years of 215 students and the fact that in Essex County no other district has had such a rate of increase, adding that we receive no additional state aid for this increase.

Mr. Sincaglia stressed that Special Education costs grow without limits, noting that private school placements average about \$24,000 per child, which is approximately three times our public school cost. He noted that local districts can not forever absorb these costs, but stringent state and federal laws mandate this. He added that our larger governmental units can not continue to ignore this problem.

Mr. Sincaglia indicated that Nutley is receiving the same Special Education funding for the fourth year in a row, and the Governor's Task Force doesn't recommend raising Special Education aid until 1996-97. Mr. Sincaglia further explained that next year the transportation program for Special Education students will cost \$550,000 plus another \$150,000 for salaries and fringe benefits of drivers and aides for a total cost of \$700,000 devoted to getting children back and forth from schools and for which the district will receive only \$187,000 in state aid. The old transportation aid formula would have produced from \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Mr. Sincaglia stressed that the district is not getting the help it should have from the state. He added that the state and federal governments have a growing habit of mandating things that other employers must do, but they do not say how to find the money to pay for them. You have to raise taxes and/or reduce services.

Mr. Sincaglia mentioned that the district will continue the review and replacement of textbooks, for the forthcoming year elementary music, high school chemistry, foreign language and English. He added that technology would be upgraded, with the library moving into the 21st century; the physical facilities would be maintained; one school bus would be purchased and existing programs would be maintained.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that the General Fund would increase by 4.9%, with the overall budget increasing by 4.3%, and he felt this is a very responsible commitment to the citizens of Nutley. He added that Nutley maintains a top flight school system at a cost far below what other districts spend, over \$1,100 below the per child average in New Jersey, more than \$1,500 below the north Jersey per child average and more than \$2,100 below the Essex County per child average.

Mr. Sincaglia further indicated that the district is proud of our academic results, with very high test results regarding our Iowa tests and the HSPT.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed some accounting changes which had been made. He noted that 1-1/2 teaching positions would be eliminated as well as one custodial position, all by attrition. Mr. Sincaglia indicated that the tax impact of the budget would be 28 points. He stated that this is a sound budget which merits support.

Mr. Hermo thanked Mr. Sincaglia for his excellent presentation and thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the budget.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Agenda Items Only):

Mr. Joseph Pelaia, 104 Mountainview Avenue, commended the Budget Committee for its excellent work, adding that he is hopeful the budget will pass as it has for the last four years. He expressed his deep concern with the reductions in state aid and added that he felt people should write their legislators and insist that the formula for school funding take into account fiscal responsibility.

Mr. George Hayes, 518 Prospect Street, complimented the Budget Committee for its fine work and indicated his hope that the budget would pass as it is important to have a properly financed school system. He then asked a question related to the increase in the number of Special Education students, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied that there may have been a discrepancy in the count.

Mr. Hayes then questioned if the increase in student enrollment for Millburn was actually higher than Nutley's increase, to which Mr. Sincaglia responded that he believed Millburn had a higher increase this year, but not overall for the two years.

Mr. Harold Widdig, Faber Place, expressed his concerns regarding the increases in school budgets and taxes, noting that two thirds of the budget is for salaries. Mr. Hermo responded that all Board members are taxpayers, and they try to do the best they can in keeping tax increases as small as possible.

Mr. Michael Campolieto, Frank Street, questioned specific increases in the athletic program and capital outlay, to which Mr. Sincaglia, Dr. Fadule and Mr. Kucinski responded. He also mentioned that he was a federal employee who did not receive a scheduled 1.6% raise this year and suggested that the Board hold the line on salary increases.

Mr. Vincent Cucuzza, 478 Chestnut Street, noted that he felt taxpayers' money is well spent for salaries and wages because the students are doing well. He then questioned what kind of impact would be felt in the district if the Governor accepts her educational committee's recommendations on funding. Dr. Fadule indicated that the district is in a very precarious situation. From all appearances it appears as though Nutley's transition aid will be cut in the neighborhood of \$300,000 in 1995-96. If local districts have to assume costs of teacher benefits and Social Security, Nutley alone is looking at an expenditure of almost 2-1/4 million dollars. Even if this were phased in over a five-year period, that is over \$400,000 per year. Dr. Fadule added that he does not like what may be ahead of us.

Mr. Frank Patterson, 5 Orchard Street, stated that he feels this is a responsible budget. He indicated that he also is a federal employee who did not receive the 1.6% salary increase. However, he added that he had received an 8% increase for locality pay which teachers do not receive.

Mr. Patterson mentioned that extracurricular activities are important to students when they apply to colleges, and in Nutley the activities are offered at no charge to the students. He added that the NCQE also supports the budget.

Mr. Widdig asked questions as to how teachers' salaries are negotiated and questioned principals' salaries. He also expressed his concern with the amount of money left over for programs after salaries are paid. Mr. Hermo replied that the Board does the very best that it can to insure a cost effective educational program.

ADOPTING BUDGET FOR THE 1994/1995 SCHOOL YEAR:

Mr. Kucinski 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 1994/1995 school year on March 21, 1994, and

WHEREAS, said tentative budget was properly advertised on April 7, 1994, and

WHEREAS, the Public Hearing on the budget was conducted on April 11, 1994,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the official budget for the 1994/1995 school year in the following amounts:

25.

General Fund	\$29,332,656
Special Revenue Fund	663,163
Debt Service	<u>277,676</u>
Total Budget	\$30,273,495, of which

the following amount shall be raised by local tax levy:

General Fund	\$26,034,740
Debt Service	<u>263,743</u>
Total	\$26,298,483

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary be authorized to place on the ballot at the Annual School Election to be held on April 19, 1994, the proposal to approve the General Fund tax levy portion of the 1994/1995 school budget. (The complete budget for 1994/1995 is attached as Appendix 1.)

SCHOOL ELECTION:

Mr. Kucinski 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 19, 1994, 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 1994/1995 school year in the amount of \$26,034,740,

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 9, 1994, 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:

April 11, 1994

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

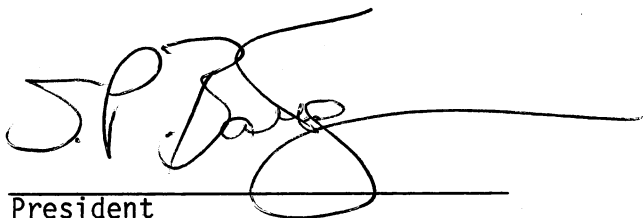
Polling District No. 6
Washington School
Ward 3 - Districts 1, 2, 6 & 7

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

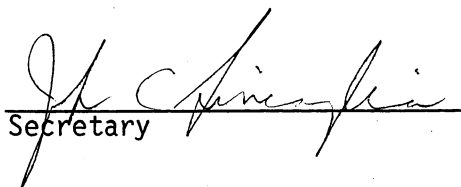
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the polls be open between the hours of 2:30 and 9:00 p.m.

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 8:42 p.m.



President



Secretary

April 18, 1994

Date