

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

February 27, 1995

The Conference 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 27, 1995 at 7:15 p.m. with Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Battaglia read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Conference Meeting was provided in the Notice of February 22, 1995. 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."

CALL OF ROLL:

The members present at roll call were: Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mrs. Aileen Hresko, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, Mrs. Maria Russo and Mr. Sam P. Battaglia. Absent: Mr. Charles J. Piro and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Battaglia asked 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 recess to closed executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters, 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. Kucinski, seconded by Mrs. Russo and unanimously approved by the Board.

RECESS MEETING:

The meeting recessed at 7:17 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

Mrs. Scheckel was present at this time

1. Mr. Battaglia asked Mr. Kucinski to make a report of the Budget Review Committee, and Mr. Kucinski presented the following statement:

"The Budget Review Committee is pleased to present its unanimous recommendation for the adoption of the 1995-96 tentative budget. The Committee has met numerous times in the past three months with the central administration, and we are now officially presenting the budget proposal to the Board as was discussed at our open conference meeting on February 13, 1995.

"The budget being presented is nearly \$350,000 below the State budget 'cap', and represents an overall increase of 2.5% from the 1994-95 school year. In terms of taxes we are requesting less than \$800,000 in additional taxes for the next school year, approximately 2.9% more than was approved by the voters for last year's budget. I think it is important to note that both the budget and the tax increase are below or no worse than the current cost of living.

"Had the State of New Jersey been more helpful with aid, our tax request would have been even less. However, we experienced yet another reduction in State aid which will now support only 8.3% of our general operating budget. Just six years ago the state provided us with over 14%. Our State aid, in actual dollars, has not been this low since 1986-87.

"The Committee examined our current programs and practices such as class size, staffing, equipment and supply requests and the possibility of privatizing certain district services such as custodial and food services. This process resulted in the reduction of 3/4 of a million dollars from our original projections and requests.

"This budget includes nearly \$130,000 for computers and computer-related items. While all of us would like to do more in this area, we think that this year's amount is appropriate in light of the current economic climate.

"We will continue to provide adequate funds for instructional supplies and materials, current courses and extra-curricular programs and continue to maintain our aging facilities. I would like to publicly thank the Athletic Committee for their input in submitting a budget actually below this year's by about 2%.

"As far as privatization of certain district services is concerned, the Committee feels that this is not yet a concept we want to embrace. While there may be cost savings in some areas, we are concerned that subcontracting would not provide the kind and quality of service we are used to receiving in Nutley. We have made efforts to economize in these areas on our own, this year and in the past, particularly by reducing staff and cutting some positions to part time. We will always continue to be as efficient as possible. For now, however, we are not ready to recommend that the Board begin privatization.

"Mr. President, that's the Committee's report. We are pleased to recommend the adoption of the 1995-96 tentative school budget that is before you."

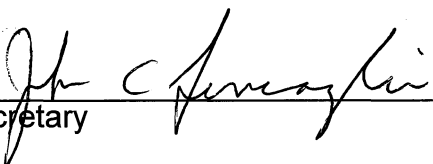
Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed highlights of the budget and addressed the issues of use of surplus, budget cap and state aid. He noted that the recent article in Sunday's Star Ledger regarding excessive surplus seemed not to reflect on Nutley's situation even though the State of New Jersey was now counting our unemployment trust fund as surplus. He noted that the unemployment funds can not be used for anything other than unemployment payments.

Mr. Sincaglia pointed out that the current budget was seeking an additional \$773,000 in school taxes for both the General Fund and Debt Service for the 1995-96 fiscal year, and this represented an increase of 2.94%.

Mr. Pelaia commented that the Nutley Journal had recently pointed out that the Nutley School District represented a very good value for the dollar.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Mrs. Hresko, seconded by Mr. Rusignuolo, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
Secretary

3/6/95  
Date