

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 29, 2010
Woodbury Jr.-Sr. High School Auditorium
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Education, City of Woodbury, was held on the above date. Mr. Gwalthney opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and read the opening statements.

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meeting's Act has been given by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

Faxing notice to the *Gloucester County Times* and filing written notice with the Clerk of the City of Woodbury at the time of Reorganization in April, 2009.

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Abbott	Present	Mr. Hughes	Present (arrived 7:10pm)
Mr. Chiesa	Present	Mr. Lonabaugh	Present
Mrs. Dennen	Present	Mrs. White	Present
Mr. Gwalthney	Present	Mr. Toole	Present
Ms. Hill	Present	Theodore Johnson	Present
		(Student Representative)	

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

5. MISSION STATEMENT

Building upon our history, diversity and beliefs, the mission of the Woodbury Public Schools,

a leader in personalizing education,

is to ensure each child becomes a responsible citizen who excels in his or her endeavors and meets life's challenges with courage, confidence and pride;

this is accomplished by utilizing proven instructional strategies and innovative methods by highly skilled and dedicated individuals in partnership with families, our city and the global community.

6. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

- Excess Surplus Calculation – Mrs. Huber and Mr. Jones explained the change in the calculation.
- Public Hearing on the 2010-11 Budget – Mr. Chiesa, Mrs. Huber and Mr. Jones gave a presentation to the public.

7. MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

Open: Motion Mr. Dennen Second Mr. Chiesa

Antonia Benecchi – 1108 Tatum Street – asked what does .8 mean regarding FTE.

Mr. Jones replied that it means 80% of a full time teacher.

Ms. Benecchi also asked if the state will be cutting state aid the year after next.

Mr. Gwalthney replied that he thinks that it will be cut again.

Mr. Chiesa stated that we don't know and that New Jersey is the highest taxed state in the country. He also stated that we are all faced with challenges.

Ms. Benecchi asked if the state is going to fund the formula.

Mr. Gwalthney replied that we don't know.

Penny McKenna – asked if the reading recovery teacher that was going to be part time was going to be a current teacher.

Mr. Jones replied that it could be if they are interested.

Susan Anderson – 51 Jackson Street, Woodbury – stated that the maintenance budget is always the first cut and that it concerns her.

She asked if we can re-evaluate the strategic plan action implementation.

She also asked why the teacher's contract is on an extension. She thought that maybe the board could get concessions in benefits if they don't get them already. She also felt that maybe the board could freeze pay.

Mr. Jones replied that the employees pay 15% over single coverage for health benefits.

Mr. Gwalthney stated the contract has expired and we hold to the last contract year.

Mr. Jones stated the district is planning to meet this summer to evaluate the strategic plan.

Mrs. Dennen read a statement as to the present status of the negotiations.

Amy Butler – 102 Crescent Avenue, Woodbury - asked if the statement that Mrs. Dennen read was going to be posted on the website.

Mr. Gwalthney stated yes.

Jennifer Lawson – 149 High Street, Woodbury - asked what Jr. High clubs are going to be cut.

Mr. Jones replied that it will be based on interest.

Judy Skeels, 26 N. Drexel Street, Woodbury - asked how does she get the word out to vote for the budget.

Mrs. Huber replied that it will be on our website.

John Belko – 605 Delaware Street, Woodbury – asked the board if they read the article in the Inquirer that morning. He asked if we looked at renegotiating contracts.

Mrs. Dennen stated the Administrators had renegotiated their contract from a 4.5% increase next year to a 3% increase.

Joanne Ellis – 216 Holroyd, Woodbury – asked if elementary music was cut, how would it feed into the high school.

Mr. Jones replied that elementary music was not getting cut.

Brenden Chiesa, 36 Rugby Place, Woodbury - questioned the 3% and 11% information in the presentation.

Mr. Anthony Chiesa replied that it was on the DOE's website.

Mr. Brenden Chiesa asked if the district took into consideration the 1.5% of salary to health care.

Mr. Brenden Chiesa asked what was the amount budgeted for salary increases for the WEA.

Mrs. Huber replied that we could not give him that information at this time.

He then asked for the salary line to salary line change.

Mrs. Huber stated she would have to get that information.

He then stated he did not feel the WEA should be paid retro-active to 7/1/09.

Beth Stanek – Teacher at West End – asked if the teachers would have the ability to reduce their supply orders or if the administration would be doing that.

Mr. Jones replied that the teachers would be cutting their orders.

She inquired about the administrator position savings.

Mr. Jones replied that an administrator would be losing their job and that the position would be posted from within.

Ms. Stanek asked if the staff had input in the cuts.

Mr. Jones stated that the administrators had input and that many of them looked for input from other staff.

She also commented that she did not know why Mrs. Huber could not make public the percentage that was budgeted.

Rich Anderson – 51 Jackson Street, Woodbury – asked if it was a legal breach to not fund the state aid formula.

Mr. Jones replied that we are definitely paying attention to what is going on. The funding formula was ruled constitutional only if funded.

Mrs. Anderson is worried that supply costs will come back to parents.

Michelle Sokolovic commented that she was appalled that the WEA was not notified that the board was going to make their negotiations public.

Close: Motion Mrs. Dennen Second Mr. Chiesa

8. AGENDA

A. **PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL**

1. Resignation

The Woodbury City Board of Education hereby acknowledged the resignation of Katherine Estep, Academics Coach of Mathematics for the Woodbury City Public School District, effective March 31, 2010.

Motion: Mrs. White Second: Mrs. Dennen

Item #1

B. BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

1. 2008-09 Excess Surplus

The Woodbury City Board of Education hereby approved to amend the utilization of 2008-09 Excess Surplus from the amount of \$672,927 that was previously approved to a new amount \$314,085 to offset a portion of the State Aid that was reduced during the current fiscal year.

2. Emergency Reserve

The Woodbury City Board of Education hereby approved to utilize Emergency Reserve Funds in the amount of \$100,000 to offset a portion of the State Aid that was reduced during the current fiscal year.

Motion: Mrs. Dennen Second: Mrs. White

Roll Call: Yes: 9 No: 0

Items #1 - 2

3. 2010-11 School Budget

The Woodbury City Board of Education hereby approved the 2010-11 school district budget for submission to the voters as follows (Rev. Exhibit 10-104):

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ <u>22,335,978</u>	\$ <u>11,000,677</u>
Special Revenue Fund	\$ <u>1,533,288</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>1,847,073</u>	\$ <u>834,197</u>
Total Base Budget	\$ <u>25,716,339</u>	\$ <u>11,834,874</u>

A full discussion of the board took place as to how to treat the additional \$57,519 that was not anticipated. Ultimately, Diane Hill made a friendly amendment to return those funds to the tax payers. The board unanimously agreed.

Amendment to change tax levy to above

Motion: Mrs. Dennen Second: Mr. Hughes

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 4

Item #3 – no – Mrs. Dennen, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. White and Mr. Toole

9. MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED 2010-11 SCHOOL BUDGET

Motion _____ Mrs. Dennen _____ Second _____ Mr. Chiesa _____
Roll Call Vote: Yes: _____ 9 _____ No: _____ 0 _____

Item #3

9. MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

Open: Motion _____ Mrs. Dennen _____ Second _____ Mr. Chiesa _____

Brendan Chiesa was disappointed that we did not put the funds toward facilities.

Close: Motion _____ Mrs. White _____ Second _____ Mrs. Dennen _____

Mr. Jones informed everyone that the Ad-Hoc Committee is being formed.

10. ADJOURNMENT TO END BOARD MEETING

Motion: _____ Mrs. Dennen _____ Second: _____ Mrs. White _____

Roll Call Vote: Yes: _____ 9 _____ No: _____ 0 _____

Time: _____ 9:45 p.m. _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara L. Huber,
Board Secretary