

APRIL 14, 2010

The South Harrison Township Committee held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7: 00 p.m. with the South Harrison Board of Education in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Mayor James McCall called the meeting to order and was followed by the flag salute.

Requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were met. Notice of this meeting was given by: (1) sending sufficient notice herewith to the Today's Sunbeam of Salem and the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury; and (2) posting notice on the public bulletin board at the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Joseph Calabro – present, Robert Diaz – present, Robert Gaines – present, Gary Spinner – present, James McCall – present, Brian Lozuke, Solicitor – present, Steve Bach, Engineer – present (L-7:25), Celeste Keen, Deputy Clerk – present

Mayor McCall welcomed the Board of Education.

Debbie Cunningham suggested that the Board of Education would be willing to share services in an effort to save on costs on anything either party thought may be beneficial.

The Board of Education is currently sharing maintenance services with Kingsway Regional School district. It was asked whether the South Harrison Township Public Works is licensed to do plumbing and/or electrical work. The Committee advised that those projects are outsourced to licensed individuals.

Committeeman Diaz asked how long it takes South Harrison Township's Public Works to mow the property of the elementary school. Mr. Datz advised that they usually start around 8:00 a.m. and are finished by 9:30 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Spinner asked if the Board of Education is involved with any purchasing shared service. Ms. Cunningham stated that the Board of Education does share purchasing and they utilize HIF (Health Insurance Fund) which is a consortium with other schools and municipalities. The Committee showed interest in looking into using HIF in the future.

Committeeman Gaines asked what the annual student increase generally is. Mr. Datz advised that it is approximately – 20 - 23 increase per year.

The state aid was decreased by 17% - the budget is actually 2% less than last year.

Steve Bach arrived and took his seat.

Committeeman Calabro asked how the Board of Education, not knowing the teacher's potential salaries due to upcoming contract talks, determine the budget. Ms. Lerch advised that it makes it extremely difficult.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Marc Nagtegaal of 719 Franklinville Road, referencing a pamphlet from a previous Board of Education budget meeting, asked the Board of Education members present how long they have been on the Board.

Jeffrey Brown is a recent member; Heidi Lerch - 15 years; Tracy Anderson - 1 year; Debbie Cunningham - 13 years

Mr. Nagtegaal stated that he feels the Board has not made an effort to cut administrative costs in his opinion. Ms. Cunningham advised that she has never been a part of salary negotiations due to conflict of interest. Mr. Datz stated that there will be no increases in administrative salaries.

Ms. Lerch asked if the Township is still working with a grant writer. The Committee stated that not since Ms. Bianco, former Township Administrator, have they been working with anyone for grant writing.

Mel Robertson of 103 Foxford Lane asked for explanation how many positions are required by the state. Mr. Datz advised that approximately 98% of staff are required.

Committeeman Calabro asked if the Board of Education has a dollar amount for teachers' salaries. Mr. Datz advised that that information is available however the Board of Education Administrator was not able to attend the meeting; that information would be offered to the Committee as soon as possible. Mr. Brown believes it may be 1.0 million but that would include teachers and administrative personnel.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to close the meeting to the public was made Robert Gaines, second by Robert Diaz. Motion carried.

Committeeman Diaz requested an organizational chart for the school. Mr. Datz stated that he would make that available as well.

Mr. Datz was in Trenton on April 13th and it appears as though School Choice is likely to be coming back in New Jersey.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Diaz, second by Robert Gaines. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Keen, RMC
Deputy Clerk