

**Rochelle Park Board of Education  
Minutes Special Public Meeting – 7:30 P.M.  
March 25, 2013**

- I. Call to Order and Flag Salute**
- II. Roll Call**

| Board Members                    | Present | Absent          |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Mr. Jay Esposito, Vice President |         | X               |
| Mr. Sam Allos                    | X       |                 |
| Mrs. Teresa Cravello             | X       |                 |
| Mrs. Maria Lauerman              |         | X(arrived 7:45) |
| Mrs. Dimitria Leakas             | X       |                 |
| Mr. Mark Scully                  | X       |                 |
| Mrs. Patricia Bilka, President   | X       |                 |

Others present:

- Bert Ammerman, Interim Superintendent
- Vincent Occhino, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Cara Hurd, Principal
- Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

**III. Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 Announcement – by Board President**

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to announce that

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. Notices announcing the date, time and place for this Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the, The Record and Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

**IV. Presentation of the 2013-2014 School Year Budget**

Mr. Ammerman presented the budget to the Board of Education and to the general public present at the meeting. Important points:

- No budget vote for county approved budgets under cap.
- Cap is 2% of Tax Levy plus allowable adjustments for enrollment.
- Total 2013-2014 proposed budget \$11,028,461.
- Increase of \$388,896. over current year.
- Percentage increase 3.66%.
- General Fund (operating budget) Increase of \$427,76.
- Percentage Increase 4.17%.
- Included in the 2013-14 budget- one extra staff member \$55,000., increase in textbook budget \$30,000., lease of 39 computer workstations for classrooms- 3 yr lease \$8,960. per year, lease of 48 netbooks and Wi-Fi mobile carts 3 yr lease-

\$8,317., (technology needs to be increased due to future testing required by the State)

- Not included in the 2013-14 budget- technology upgrades \$100,000. Additional smart boards \$70,000. Text books for new curriculum Grades6-8 math and science \$50,000. Security cameras for the hallways \$10,000.
- Mr. Ammerman explained the school funding that the school receives. The State will tell you that the schools receive state aid, what they don't explain is that since they took the state aid away four years ago, the district has lost approximately 1 million dollars in state aid.
- Fixed costs amount to \$9,947,085 or 96.88% of the budget- those things that cannot be cut, for instance, salaries, benefits, purchased services, tuition to Hackensack High School/Academies and special education tuition. The remaining 3.12% consists of general supplies and capital outlay. For a total budget of \$10,267,125.
- When comparing percentage of the budget spent on Classroom instruction for similar districts, Rochelle Park spends 64.7% in the classroom.
- When comparing tax bills for similar districts, out of the eleven districts considered Rochelle Park's taxes are the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest of the group.
- This amounts on an average assessed home of \$334,000. increase will be \$89.91 annually for a \$7.49 increase per month.

## V. Public Questions on the 2013-2014 School Year Budget

Mr. Scully asked about the textbook money that was included in the budget.

*Mr. Ammerman explained it was for Kindergarten English series- also student workbooks need to be ordered each year. He would also like to resolve the need for science textbooks.*

Mr. Borchard 70 Forest Place- inquired about the 2% cap increase in enrollment, stated according to the school report card enrollment is going down. He also inquired about health care waivers.

*Mr. Ammerman stated that the state gave the district the enrollment numbers. On the issue of health care waivers Mr. Ammerman referred to Dr. Occhino who stated the district didn't qualify. Mr. Ammerman added that the waiver would have only been 40 to 50 thousand.*

Mr. Borchard asked if the lap tops just purchased covers what the district needs for testing. Is it the minimum or are there spares if one doesn't work.

*Mr. Ammerman explained that it doesn't put us at the minimum.*

Mr. Borchard asked if there will be two testing labs.

*Mr. Ammerman stated 2 rooms – classrooms.*

Mr. Borchard asked how many smart boards the district has.

*Ms. Budanskaya was present and answered 16 in total- 9 are Eno boards.*

Mr. Borchard asked if the tuition from Hackensack is fixed.

*Mr. Ammerman stated yes as per an agreement that was made with Hackensack, includes the other sending districts as well.2% each year.*

Mrs. Pascarella 32 Thiem Ave- asked how the district is going to get the kids ready.

*Mr. Ammerman replied by stating the first item is to address the focus school status. Second is to get everyone on board, we started with the new textbooks, putting in a proper foundation- the August scores will tell us if we are moving in the right direction.*

Mrs. Pascarella- asked if the new test will give a better reading of progress.  
*Mr. Ammerman replied that the move is more towards word problems- 2015 will not be an accountability test.*

Mrs. Pascarella- questioned if this will affect their chances to get into college.  
*Mr. Ammerman stated it's more of a case of they will not get a high school diploma.*

Mrs. Leakas- asked how other states test and why May.  
*Mr. Ammerman stated PARCC- testing will take place around the 136th day and then again at the end of the year. They state scores will be given out in June. The state is moving ahead they feel that the districts will figure it out.*

Mr. Borchard 70 Forest Pl- inquired as to how the 48 netbooks will be used, all for one grade?  
*Mr. Ammerman indicated they will be available for teachers to use in the classrooms, on a cart so that can be moved.*

Mrs. Ydrovo- 37 Crescent St. inquired about wireless access in the building.  
*Mr. Ammerman specified that he had met with Pro media to address wireless access in the building.*

Mrs. Ydrovo- asked if there was anything left in the bank cap.  
*Mr. Ammerman stated \$125,983 was left, which the district wanted to use but the county stated we couldn't use those funds until next year.*

Mrs. Ydrovo- asked if the funds were for this year or last year.  
*Dr. Occhino stated 2012-2013.*

Mr. Scully- inquired with the leasing, is maintenance included.  
*Ms. Budanskaya replied that the lease comes with a warranty. If any repairs needed to be done, Ms. Budanskaya would be the person repairing the machines.*  
*Dr. Occhino added that ideally the district should have 10 extra computers over the amount needed for testing.*

*Mr. Ammerman further stated, if we get more next year we will be up the 10 extra. With the technology changes that happen so rapidly, computers become outdated. It's not a matter of just ordering more, there has to be some quality so they last longer.*

Mrs. Cravello injected that it's two fold because the district is also getting new books.

*Mrs. Budanskaya commented on the new computers, and thanked the board and administration for choosing to acquire new computers.*

Mrs. Pascarella 32 Thiem Ave- asked about any extra money – do we have to qualify to use it.

*Mr. Ammerman stated yes we have to use up any extra money we may have left over. You also have to worry about the building as well as technology and education and added that the Township Committee has been very supportive.*

## **VI. Item for Board Action - Resolutions**

### **F1. FINANCE**

#### **POLICY # 6220 BUDGET PREPARATION**

#### **Adoption of the 2013-2014 School District Budget Statement:**

**WHEREAS** the Rochelle Park Board of Education approved a tentative 2013-2014 school district budget on March 4, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS** the Rochelle Park Board of Education advertised the 2013-2014 school district budget on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in The Record; and,

**WHEREAS** the tentative 2013-2014 school district budget met the criteria for a pre-budget year adjusted tax levy, which includes weighted increase for enrollment, inflated by two (2) percent for a Commissioner's Automatic Tax Levy Adjustment in the amount of \$76,550.00 for a total adjusted local tax levy of \$9,963.292; and,

**WHEREAS** P.L. 2011, c. 202 eliminated the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy if the tax levy is at or below the statutory cap of 2.0%;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2013-2014 school district budget is as follows:

|                            | Budget               | Local Tax<br>Levy    |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total General Fund         | \$ <u>10,643,627</u> | \$ <u>9,963,292</u>  |
| Total Special Revenue Fund | \$ <u>109,674</u>    | n/a                  |
| Total Debt Service Fund    | \$ <u>275,160</u>    | \$ <u>273,797</u>    |
| Totals                     | \$ <u>11,028,461</u> | \$ <u>10,237,089</u> |

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the available Banked Cap in the amount of \$125,982 be carried forward to be appropriated in the 2014-15 school district budget.

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 6-0  
Motion Carried

## **VII. Open to the Public (Any Item)**

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to open public comment at 7:55 p.m.  
Roll Call 6-0

None

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mr. Scully, to close public comment at 7:57 p.m.  
Roll Call 6-0

## **VIII. Executive Session Announcement**

WHEREAS, the Rochelle Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters which include:

HIB CASE

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board shall move into Executive Session to discuss the above referenced matter(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session will provide as much information as possible without violating any applicable privilege or confidentiality so that the public can understand what was discussed and when available what the Board decision was.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the executive session will be released to the public in an appropriately redacted form within a reasonable period of time after the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable to such minutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the redacted portion of the executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.  
Roll Call 6-0

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to close Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.  
Roll Call 6-0

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Leakas, to adjourn meeting at 8:45 p.m.  
Roll Call 6-0