



***Barnegat Township
School District***

**BARNEGAT BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET PRESENTATION**

**March 21, 2013
Thursday, 6:30 PM**

Barnegat High School
180 Bengal Blvd.
Barnegat, NJ 08005

Our collective mission is to nurture and educate our children in accordance with all curriculum standards to prepare them for responsible citizenship and success in life.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Olker: I would like to call this Special Barnegat Township Board of Education Budget Presentation meeting on March 21, 2013 to order.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT

Mrs. Olker: The notice of this meeting has been forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, and placed in the foyer of the Barnegat High School, in the Barnegat Township Municipal Building and has been filed with the Barnegat Township Municipal Clerk, in conjunction with the Open Public Meeting Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-10.

III. ROLL CALL

Mr. Cloke	Absent
Mr. Mihalik	Present
Mrs. Pilovsky	Present
Mr. Caputo	Present
Mrs. Becker	Absent
Mrs. Paulhus	Present
Mrs. Murphy	Absent (Arrived 8:05 p.m.)
Mrs. Sarno	Present
Mrs. Olker	Present

Also Present: Ms. Karen Wood, Superintendent
Mrs. Lourdes LaGuardia, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Ben Montenegro, Board Attorney

IV. FLAG SALUTE

Mrs. Olker: Would everyone please rise to salute the Flag?

All: Pledge of Allegiance

V. PUBLIC BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mrs. Olker: Before we begin the budget presentation I would personally like to thank the people who served on the budget committee and who tirelessly worked to overcome many obstacles in order to achieve a budget which will sustain the education of the students and have minimal effect on our programs. I would like to thank Mrs. Wood, Mrs. LaGuardia, Mr. Scotto, Mr. Mihalik, Mrs. Paulhus and Mrs. Pilovsky. I would especially like to thank Mrs. Pilovsky who served as the committee chair for the bulk of the proceedings and who was instrumental in pointing out certain issues and offering recommendations which were extremely helpful in the decision-making. Thank you again, Mrs. Pilovsky.

Mrs. Pilovsky: You are welcome.

Mrs. Olker: We will begin with our budget presentation.

Ms. Wood: Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome. Thank you so much for being here this evening. I am glad the snow finally stopped; I was a little disappointed knowing it was officially spring and winter is still lingering in Barnegat, NJ. In any case, as you all know, you are here this evening to hear the public presentation of the school budget for the 2013-2014 school year. I would like to echo some of Mrs. Olker's remarks at the beginning of the presentation this evening. I am grateful for the support of the Board of Education as well as the Budget Committee, the administrative team and especially the staff, teachers and faculty here in the Barnegat Township school district.

As Mrs. Olker began her remarks she said we worked very hard on sustaining the education of our students with minimal impact on our programs. One of the things we did was to take a look at some of goals from last year and also looked at our goals as proposed for the 2013-2014 school year. Some people might wonder how goals are tied to the finances of the district. One of the new requirements of the Department of Education is that all of our fiscal goals be tied to our school operational goals. So, that means that one of the things that the Department of Education looked for in approving the budget for 2013-2014 was to make sure that funding is tied to the sources that you see on the screen and the programs for our students.

For example, the first bullet says to enhance teacher overall effectiveness and its impact on student learning. Many of you have heard about the EE4NJ initiative. It is an unfunded state mandate that is Excellent Educators for NJ. It basically holds all of our teaching professionals to a much higher standard of accountability, although it goes into effect in 2013 we have had to do a significant amount of professional development during this school year and we will be talking a little bit about that unfunded mandate as we move through the program.

The second bullet is to maintain an efficient spending plan where school district purchases and allocations support thorough and efficient education while preparing fiscally responsible budgets. I think you will all agree that this has to be a goal as we move forward. If you understand the past in Barnegat, the last five years the Barnegat Township School District has had a zero percent increase to the taxpayer. That has given us a significant hurdle to overcome as we go into the 2013-2014 school year. So maintaining efficient spending and being fiscally responsible is a projected goal for the 2013-2014 school year.

The final proposed goal is to seek federal, state and local recognition opportunities for the district schools and individuals at all levels. What this really means is that we have done so many things in Barnegat over the last several years to save money that it is time we be recognized for those efforts. We will be actively pursuing some of those things for next year.

Just like in your home budgets, your household budgets, every year, every month there is an increased cost of living. So whether your rent increases or your mortgage is adjustable or your taxes increase or the cost of food is more in your home because maybe the cost to transport foods from different parts of the country is more expensive or fuel costs go up. All of those things impact your own budget. So in your household when your budget increases you have to make some decisions. You either have to earn more money to take care of those things for your family or you have to cut back on your expenses. As you can see on this slide the Barnegat Township School district is experiencing increased costs in a number of areas. Health benefits, tuition, supplies, gasoline, utilities, employee salary costs, student growth, building maintenance, transportation, state mandates and Department of Ed requirements. Some of those things we have absolutely no control over, for example, the cost of health benefits increase is usually between 16-18% each year. Our school budget is not allowed to increase 16-18% nor would I ever propose that we would do that to the taxpayers of Barnegat. However, to take care of that increase we certainly have to look at making cuts in other areas. There are other areas that have increase cost to the district. I talked earlier about state mandates and some of unfunded requirements. Many years ago in

education, for those of you who have been around for quite some time, the State Department of Education provided a lot of state funding for the things we were required to do. The Anti-bullying Bill of Rights Act which came into effect last year, we call it the HIB law, that HIB is an unfunded mandate. We are required to participate but we do not get assistance for that. That is ok, because the HIB law is really important, but we still have to find a way to fund that in our schools. All have associated increases each year however the most important focus is really on our students. The most important thing we do day to day is teach children. Mr. Scotto will speak on that.

Mr. Scotto: Thank you, Mrs. Wood. Good evening. Keeping that in mind that the most important focus is the children every single day, it is why we come to work and why we are here every day and why our Board of Education is working so collaboratively with us. You will see that our budget inclusions are always connected to overall teacher effectiveness and at the end of the day the impact on student learning.

On the left hand of your slide you will see program maintenance where the budget continues as in the past to focus on professional development. Whether it be the professional development that has been identified by the state of New Jersey through state mandates or new initiatives, a focus that has been established within the district or an individual need of the teacher. The EE4NJ is an acronym that represents an initiative that will take effect September 1, 2013 where all staff, administration included, will be responsible in a much more accountable way. Student achievement linked to teacher and administrative effectiveness. PARCC represents our state-wide initiative to transition from pencil/paper assessments to online assessments in the area of special education that we continue to meet the needs of all of our students.

On the right hand of your slide you see program implementation, a moving forward with professional development continuing to be very important. Our state is transitioning from state standards to national standards. EE4NJ will continue to be a focus moving forward in this budget. As we define teacher and administrative effectiveness, it will be our responsibility to support those that are struggling and to support those who are maintaining and doing the best things for kids every day. PARCC will be here before we know it; if your child has taken the NJASK in a few years they will take that assessment online.

Particularly mentioning textbook resources in this budget inclusion we recognize the need for new math textbooks at the middle school level and new English textbooks at the ninth grade level. Enrichment is so important and meeting the needs of all learners, low-level learners and high-level learners. In this case in particular at the K-5 level with the future emphasis on what we call STEM, the integration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. And last but not least special education K-12 that we continue, and enhance and provide a consistent program for students up to and including grade twelve.

Our Business Administrator, Mrs. LaGuardia, will now speak to you regarding the general fund.

Mrs. LaGuardia: Good evening everyone, and thank you once again for attending this informative session. With every business, with every entity we need revenues. The two largest revenues for the Barnegat School District are our taxes and our state aid. Our taxes, if you look at the chart above, shows that in 2010...

Tape did not record.

Ms. Wood:I will put in all of their requests sometime over the summer, July and August, and purchase from a consortium that guarantees the lowest cost for what we are purchasing. The old practice of the district was throughout the year we did not purchase through a consortium anymore. The reality is you purchased most of what you needed before the school year started because you educate students. So we function from September to June essentially. When Mrs. LaGuardia arrived one of the first things she

looked at what how we could save money ongoing every year, every month, not just when we were doing our initial purchasing over the summer. She has required all of us to use consortium purchasing throughout the year. What this does is take the total expenses on each line and reduces them. That was one of the first cost-saving measures that we implemented before moving into the projected cuts for the 2013-2014 school year. For example, we were able to save \$12,000 on toilet paper. I know it doesn't sound like a lot but the reality is did you ever think you would spend \$12,000 on toilet paper? So before we moved into the really challenging parts of building this budget we looked at every other possible way to reduce costs before we went into how to we produce what we need to do which is a good education for your children and the families of our district before we actually took a look at reducing staff.

So as we say no cut is a good cut, before we got to this slide we assessed the district first and we really tried to trim across the programs rather than reducing and eliminating where possible. I have to tell you that even now having worked through this budget for several months this is a challenge. The anticipated cuts in staff are a total of \$1,089,701. That equates to more than 24 positions eliminated; 35 positions reduced and additional reductions in programs and services.

In the future we will talk about how the reductions impact what is happening in our schools. I have to tell you ladies and gentlemen as difficult as this is as Superintendent of Schools I am absolutely confident that we will continue to deliver the best education for your students. We have excellent teachers who work very hard and who are extremely professional in their delivery of instruction to your students. Although this is a challenge we are not reducing or eliminating programs that will impact our students' learning.

Mrs. LaGuardia will talk about how the reductions impact the budget.

Mrs. LaGuardia: Even though we have a total budget of \$47M for the coming year of \$1.5M less, we are required to do more with less. This is why we are proposing a local school tax rate for the coming year of 1.281 cents. What does that mean? It is a .024 cents increase from the current year. That is \$6.03 per month on an average home valued at \$300K.

Mr. Scotto: As our superintendent continues to remind us, I would like to echo that regardless of the cuts, regardless of the eliminations, the administrative team, the Board of Education, the staff of Barnegat Township is confident that we continue to provide the best education pre-K – 12. Take a look at the screen. A snapshot of all the different colleges and universities, institutions that our students attended last year. We are proud of this. I did not have enough room on the slide to indicate the numerous places that our students have moved on to after leaving Barnegat Township High School. That is why you see, and many more.

In the next slide as of today I am proud to show you that even though our students have not yet graduated that they have already been accepted to institutions of high academic excellence, opportunities for college and career readiness. We are confident that this list will be here for the future and going forward.

This is an indication that Barnegat Township, no matter what, continues to do a great job. This is an indication that our teachers, staff, administrators, Board of Education continue to work diligently to provide opportunities for kids. For example, the students that are now seniors, their HSPA scores are over the district factor group average in the areas of Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. The district factor group average is similar districts of similar socio-economic status. We continue to be very proud that we are once again over the state average in mathematics and literacy as well.

I would be remiss if I did not point out to the audience that our AP scores are great. That 75% of the students that took these exams earned a 3 or higher. Meaning they had an opportunity to earn college

credit before leaving Barnegat High School. These are impressive numbers; these are numbers that we know we will continue to meet even though times are a bit tougher.

Ms. Wood: As I started the presentation I talked about the goals. When we proposed goals for 2013-2014 you always look back to the year before and see what occurred then. So last year on the left you will see a focus on early childhood development and early intervention especially in the area of speech, reading and BSI. One of the reasons last year we focused on early childhood development, etc. is because if you look at the interventions of our youngsters and start to devise strategies to help the very youngest learners, emerging readers, for example, if you can give them the right strategies and make sure they are well equipped to move on through middle school and high school. The research shows that a decrease is cost over time because fewer students are referred to Child Study Team and through the Basic Skills programs. So providing proper reading intervention strategies at an early age will help to mitigate some of the increased costs that the school district might see years down the road. That was a goal last year and this year....

Mr. Scotto:it will be a goal again. Regardless of the cuts, regardless of the eliminations and even though the belt is a little tighter we once again, and we call this the Class of 2025 from Barnegat High School, will have a focus on early childhood development, early intervention particularly in the areas of speech, literacy and basic skills instruction.

Ms. Wood: You will see the next bullet is the equitable distribution of technology and insurance that the students are ready for the 21st century and beyond. Last year this was one of our goals and if you heard Mr. Scotto speak earlier on the PARCC which is the performance assessment for readiness of college and career, which we will be using district technology in the near future, we starting planning with that implementation in mind last year. So an equitable distribution of technology did occur last year and we were able to provide good experiences for our students and expose them to the 21st century learning skills that they will need.

Mr. Scotto: Even though it is not noted on the right hand of the slide, we are confident that with the current distribution of technology and the way we are integrating technology to enhance student learning, we will begin to transition as all districts do to online assessments.

Ms. Wood: On the left hand side you will see state of the art resources to help students learn. In last year's presentation the state of the art resources was social studies, texts for our students because we were running an outdated social studies texts last year and this year we implemented new social studies curriculum.

Mr. Scotto: As we transition into the second year of that new adoption of social studies included in this budget as I mentioned earlier will be the adoption of new six to eighth grade mathematics materials aligned to the common core, national standards in mathematics as well as ninth grade English texts at the high school level.

Ms. Wood: The next bullet says a staff of teachers who are skilled and dedicated at their craft. During the entire 2012-2013 school year the entire staff has worked diligently to meet the mandates of EE4NJ. Although EE4NJ does not go into effect until September 1, 2013 this school year we have utilized professional development to educate everyone, administrators, teachers, and staff have all been educated in what the new requirements will be for 2013.

Mr. Scotto: On the right hand of the slide you can see that we have mentioned that this is a staff of teachers who are prepared for the demands of these new initiatives. We have worked diligently to prepare

for best practices in teaching. We have worked diligently to be ahead of the state in terms of preparing for effective teaching and learning.

Ms. Wood: You will see on the bottom of the left hand side it says enrichment activities for our students such as co-curricular activities, sports and arts programs. A couple of slides ago Mr. Scotto highlighted all of the colleges and universities that our students have been able to attend last year and have been accepted to this year and we are confident that will continue as our students continue to graduate from Barnegat High School and be successful whether they chose to go to college or directly into a career or a trade. One of the things that colleges look for when they are looking for their scholarship applications and those scholars that they will look to for the future are well-rounded students and students who have had the experiences that Barnegat High School has been able to provide through the enrichment activities that occurred this year.

Mr. Scotto: On the right hand of the slide I am sure you are thinking about that earlier in this presentation the Superintendent talked about things that would be reduced or pulled back or cut. That is true, however, the district will continue as we move forward to provide enrichment activities for our kids and co-curricular activities in sports and in the arts.

Ms. Wood: The last bullet on the right hand side is the additional needs met for special education students.

Mr. Scotto: We want to continue to provide our students with a consistent, least-restrictive environment at all levels. So as students exit the middle school and transition to the high school that we would see in the coming year an increase, not only in resource center but in-class support opportunities for all kids. To give them the opportunity to be college and career-ready. To mirror the opportunities that they had with inclusion at the middle and elementary school levels.

Ms. Wood: So as we conclude the presentation for the evening, although I understand how many of you feel, education is the single most important thing that we do in my opinion. However, my job is to provide a balanced budget; a budget that is fiscally responsible to the taxpayers as well as meeting the needs of our students. Although we have anticipated reductions for the 2013-2014 school year I am confident that through the efforts of our staff that we will still be able to maintain and produce the programs that we have and provide them for your children because it is the most important thing we do in Barnegat. I will open the floor for questions, or do we need to open for public session, I apologize.

VI. PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Olker: Yes, we do. I would like to thank Ms. Wood, Mrs. LaGuardia and Mr. Scotto for the presentation. Now we will again, move into public session.

The Barnegat Township Board of Education appreciates and welcomes public comment, advice and suggestions especially when it is intended to assist/help the Board of Education. Please feel free to speak to the Board during the public session. Comments and discussion will be limited to one five (5) minutes period per individual unless requested by the chairperson to continue on a point of clarification. Public comment at special meetings of the Board shall be related to the call of the meeting. In accordance with the Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and group affiliation, if appropriate. Your anticipated courtesy to the members of the public and the Board is appreciated. May I have a motion to open the public session?

Mr. Caputo: So moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

Mrs. Olker: In the interest of time and fairness to other speakers and also to assure that you get your full five minutes I am asking that you make all your comments and ask all your questions in the five minutes allotted. Any questions you have will be answered at the end of your presentation. Thank you for that. Do we have anyone who wishes to address the Board?

Kelly Swicki, 18 Teakwood Lane: My children attend Horbelt. I am concerned with class sizes. We have new housing going up on Route #9 and if new students move into those houses the children will go to Horbelt. Now we are looking at staff cuts so I was wondering what size classes we can anticipate and how that is in the best interest of our children.

Mrs. Olker: Before we answer that is that your question, do you have anymore?

Ms. Swicki: No, just that one.

Ms. Wood: I am going to begin the answer and then let Mr. Scotto continue with that answer because it is really a two-part question. Part of the statement that Ms. Swicki made was the housing developments that you see coming to Barnegat. I will say in December of 2012 Mrs. LaGuardia and I met with Township officials and they provided some assessments for us. The good thing is that the housing developments that are projected to be completed will not have significant impact on our enrollment in the next couple of school years. Now if there are other projected housing developments out there, that may change things in a few years. However, the projections as we look forward will not have a significant increase in the enrollment in our district. However, I understand the question that being coupled with staff reductions how does that look for class size.

One of the things we looked at was researching class size in districts similar to ours before we came up with conclusions and went with a very equitable distribution as far as that went. Mr. Scotto, could you speak to the average class size at the elementary schools this year and what it might look like for next year? Keep in mind that because the district is zoned in a certain way, for example, you live in a Horbelt region of the district, Horbelt may have some many first graders and another elementary school might have a very different number. So it is difficult to say that first grade across the district has so many children, it is different from school to school. However, we did take a look at those factors before we made reductions to the teaching staff.

Mr. Scotto: To speak to your question, of course with the reduction in staff class sizes will increase. I would be remiss if I did not tell you that. Prior to the reduction of staff, class sizes were under 20, some. Class sizes will go over 20; some will go over 25. However, I have to be honest with you that one of the things that we felt was a priority in this budget was looking at the class sizes, particularly in early intervention that they remain under 10. Those would be the students that would be most at risk as they begin their academic progression in the district. It would be those students that perhaps without this program would be misidentified or identified for special education and not necessarily need it and place a significant fiscal impact on the district. I think it is very important that you realize that when looking at class size and at 18 vs. 22 there is no difference. You may feel there is a difference; there is not. Our staff has been trained in differentiation; our staff willingly will work collaboratively with the administration to implement differentiation. Our staff will willingly work with the administration to

recognize the roll of centers in classrooms. So, yes, class sizes will increase. Do I think it will impact the overall quality of what we provide for our students? No.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Christopher Wombach: I have three children in the district and I live at 1 Surf Court and I have a son at the Dunfee School, a daughter at the middle school and a son in the high school so my family is spread across the board. I was glad to hear that we made a cost cut in toilet paper and to me that is not insignificant. I may seem a little cynical but I fight the Department of Veterans' Affairs every day for veterans so I am a little cynical. I would like to know things like information on the going green initiative; in the long run we will save money. What items are being done to bring more money into the district by non-traditional means? There was a pool plan a few years ago but because of the cost it was probably taken away. The idea was to rent out that facility so it would pay for itself. We use the auditorium here in the summer, at least last summer there was a theatre group that rented it out and I am sure it cost money for them to do that. What other items are being discussed, non-traditional ways to other than taxes to bring in money to the school?

My real thought is the cost-cutting you mentioned. It came out in the paper and materials that there was a conflict between Board members so they decided to pay an attorney to resolve that conflict. Seems to me we are all adults here and if you guys can't get along maybe you should step down and work out the problems that you have with each other instead of paying an attorney out of our taxes. I am not calling anyone of you out individually but step down work it out and two years from now you come back in. I would be more apt to vote for you if you did something like that. It seems to me it would be more adult.

The Board minutes showed that there are two curriculum directors in the district, I don't think there were a few years ago, obviously, we are paying people six figures to do curriculum and we are cutting security guards at the high school and reducing hours for others and some of the younger teachers who eventually will get tenure because I am sure they are being cut because they do not have tenure now, but those teachers are our future. It just seems to me there are other items that could be used with more close scrutiny of the budget to reduce some of those costs. Do we put the insurance out for bid every year or do we go back to our regular insurance person and get it redone? It seems to me I know Monmouth College has a consultant that saves them money, they go out every year. Long Branch Board of Education also does it. It seems it would be a good idea. What is the figure that is actually being saved by laying off staff when we have two six figure curriculum development people? It does not make sense to me. What is the figure we are gaining by laying off staff when we are paying for an attorney to resolve your conflicts? That does not make sense. I am cynical because I do have to fight the Department of Veterans' Affairs everyday but I would like these questions answered before you go in and cut the junior members of the staff that eventually would be the future of the program.

Ms. Wood: Thank you for coming forward. If I can interpret your statements and I do not want to speak for you, I think you have questions on administrative costs.

Mr. Wombach: Yes and non-traditional ways of bringing money into the district.

Ms. Wood: OK, I will start with one. You referred to Ocean Professional Theatre Company who uses our space and we charge facilities fees. We do earn a small profit from them. It is considered revenue in school budget language and although we would like to charge more we cannot because this is a fully functioning auditorium that supports the Barnegat High School programs first. We are continuing that relationship with the Theatre Company and we are under negotiations now to work something out for next year to keep that revenue coming into the district. It is not much but saves a teaching staff member or

two. So we do continue those kinds of efforts. I will get back to some other initiatives. Mr. Scotto can you finish and talk about pre-K.

Mr. Scotto: When we developed the budget this year the software that the Department of Ed requires has a curricular alignment component and a moving forward section. They want to know what the district is doing to explore non-traditional opportunities for income revenue opportunities for the district. It is a future statement, but I am confident in sharing this with you because it has been shared with the Board of Education and also with the Ocean County Superintendent's office. Two areas where we think we would be able to generate revenue in the district would be areas of pre-school and alternative education for two main reasons. One, we have a highly qualified staff at the pre-K level and at the high school level to meet those needs. It would involve planning and the patience of the community, it would take time and would start small. We are past the brainstorming phase at this point. We are looking at how we could do this and bring money into the district and at the same time use existing staff, not additional staff, to generate revenue.

The other piece I would like to speak to is that there is only one Director of Curriculum in the district and that is me.

Ms. Wood: I will explain on that because I think I understand where...although we have one Director of Curriculum in the district we have various other supervisors in the district and most of them have been here for a long time. What I can tell you about the administrative cost for people in Barnegat is that over the last three years including changes in administration that we are still lower than the state average and lower than our district factor grouping which means district like ours and similar socio-economic background. That is not as important, I think, as the role we will all have next year. I keep talking about the EE4NJ and I can't impress to you enough how important it is because one of the ways we will move this district forward is accountability. This will include accountability for all us; accountability for me; for Mr. Scotto; the principals and the staff and students. Because, what is happening in the state of New Jersey is that the student's growth which means what you knew at one point in your life vs. what you knew at another point in your life will be compared to each other. It makes some sense when you think about what the Department of Ed is doing and we should be looking at how much more our students learn every year as opposed to comparing grade level from the year before.

What the student growth will do is those pieces of information actually will be part of teachers' evaluations in the future which holds teachers accountable, administrators accountable and holds me accountable. One of the reasons we still need administrators because I understand your concern at the high cost of administration even though it is under the state average is that the responsibility of administrators is required to increase three-fold next year. Can you go through the details of that for me?

Mr. Scotto: As Ms. Wood is pointing out to all of you; I have mentioned this EE4NJ which is Effective Educators for NJ. With that comes an increase in the percentage of observations that tenured staff will have. We anticipate that tenured staff will be observed three times in the coming school year as opposed to the traditional one time. We anticipate that non-tenured staff could be observed up to four or five times in the proposed regulations. The roll of the supervisor or director or principal will continue and increase. Continue in terms of the regular scope of responsibility whether it is building supervision, curricular supervision, district supervisor, etc. However, with that will come increased accountability, responsibilities, reporting, and documentation. So for example, what we have not been doing in New Jersey is sitting with staff members before they are evaluated because the law does not require that but the law will require that. The law will require that we sit down with staff members before we observe them and sit down with them when we observe them, sit down with them after we observe them and we look at not only how well they taught but how well their students performed and how that aligns with the district goals in vision and mission. At the end of the year what will determine an effective educator will be very

different and much more comprehensive than what we have done in the past. So the role of the existing admin team will increase significantly.

Ms. Wood: The last piece on that too, and I don't think we mentioned this is that currently our non-tenured staff, as you referred to our young teaching staff, are required under the law are to have three observations a year; our tenured staff is only required to have one observation a year. Under the new law that changes and tenured staff who currently have one will be required to have three. Next year, let's say we have 200 tenured teachers in the district, I don't know the number please forgive me, so that is just for interest of discussion. If we have 200 tenured teachers instead of the administrative team conducting 200 evaluations we will conduct 600 evaluations all of which would require pre-conference and post-conference responsibility. We have not increased the administrative team even though there will be increased responsibility next year. In addition, if you recall the pie chart slide, the total cost for administration for next year is 5.8%. Although that might seem exorbitant and I understand the way you feel, we all have responsibilities in the district and part of it does come back to the accountability that the Department of Education is requiring of all of us as we move into a much more stringent accountability for 2013-2014.

Mr. Scotto: One of the things I mentioned before when we talked about moving forward with professional development is preparing for that initiative that we speak to. If it was not for the district advisory committee, the Barnegat Township Education Association, the administration and the Board of Education, I think if we had not prepared and worked this year to examine what that would look like next year we would be at a disadvantage. So recognizing that the responsibilities will increase and what defines effective will be very different. Barnegat is prepared for that and we have done a great job with that. We asked teachers to volunteer last fall to help us understand what this initiative looks like. Our goal was to have seventeen people consider helping us out but over thirty-five people said yes I would like to try this so next year we as a district are prepared for this initiative. The administrators behind the scenes also have to do a lot of homework to prepare for this initiative but they are required by law now to co-observe in this learning year with a consultant present in the room to make sure that their evaluations are fair and consistent. So as you can tell we are very busy and there is a lot to do and we are there to help these teachers no matter where they are in their continuum of their tenure to grow and meet the needs of the kids.

Ms. Wood: I know you had also asked about RFPs or putting contracts out to bid. We still do advertise for all of our contracts just as a matter of information.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Ms. Tara Hoffman: Good evening. I have four children in the school system; actually one just graduated last year. I would like you to elaborate on your anticipated cuts; you said 25 positions eliminated and 35 positions reduced and additional reduction in program and services. I am curious as to what those are, the breakdown of that.

Mrs. Olker: I think, before Ms. Wood speaks, that you have to understand that a reduction in staff or any reduction that we make is fluid. What I mean by that is we cannot give exact answers today as to what exactly those cuts will be. We have ideas. The reason for that is that things change between now and the end of the school year. You will have people retiring which will make differences everywhere else, so you have to understand that what we are anticipating right now is not exactly set in stone. These are broad parameters.

Ms. Wood: Mrs. Olker is right. Part of what happens in the school district is that, especially with all the initiatives that are happening and the anticipated cuts, I think sometimes people who are veterans decide

they are going to retire and that does open up some positions to be returned in the budget for next year. We talked already about elementary classes and I do have to be very cautious here, I have to be honest, part is that I cannot talk specifically about personnel because the members of the Barnegat Education Association have a collective negotiations agreement with the Barnegat Board of Education. Therefore, they are protected under that contract and I really cannot discuss the terms of their employment with the public. I can say that we have looked at reductions across the district in teaching positions, secretarial, custodial and aide positions. That spoke to probably the first two bullets of those slides and the other reductions in programs really have to do more with some of our co-curricular activities than they have to do with our academic programs. For example, Early intervention; years ago we had a program called Project Ready that was eliminated maybe two years ago prior to me getting here. We did bring it back this year; that is the early intervention program we spoke about and that will remain the budget for next year. We do have some reductions in some of our sports programs after school but we have not eliminated any sports. We have cut back one coach for certain activities. We still have to make sure we can appropriately supervise students while they are the playing field because we have to be concerned for their safety, but we did trim back in some of those areas.

Again, these are anticipated like Mrs. Olker said, so they are projections and although it is extremely difficult to take a look at where will you cut. No cut is a good cut for any one of our students ever because for the child who does not love language arts or math, maybe really loves an after school sport or activity or music program. So we did not eliminate any programs at the schools academically but we did reduce coaches and took a look at reducing some of the athletic opportunities for our students particularly at the high school.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Cheryl Lombardi, 15 Pulaski Drive and I have children in the school system. It is to my understanding that you did some cuts on security. I work in the cafeteria and I see the fights that go on in the school and I just wanted to know if this was true.

Ms. Wood: Thank you. There were cuts to security. I apologize, I forgot when I said we made cuts to nearly every department, and we did. There are some anticipated cuts to security. We will still have security officers in our schools next year and the budget actually does have proposed increased use of cameras and video surveillance in the hallways of a little bit higher quality than we have right now to make sure we have accessibility so that the vice principals, SROs and principals are ok. We will still have security officers but we did reduce some of the security officers.

Mrs. Pilovsky: Ms. Wood can you also explain to her the shared service that we have with the police department.

Ms. Wood: Yes. I have to say, I have only been here a couple of years but one of the things we have worked really, really hard at is having a really good relationship with Barnegat police. The increased amount of security that they provided for us has been at no cost to the district. That is a huge benefit to all of you as parents and as taxpayers. It means that when your children are in school, and we have security guards and SROs, that additional police officers walk through and spend a minimum of one-half hour every day in each school at random times. It also means that they have worked with us on assessing all security needs of our buildings and they have made recommendations and things that we have done to modify our practices as well as our security protocols so we can try and keep people safe. They have given us 911 radios which are direct radios that link right to the police department at no cost to the district. Although that is in a crisis situation in the event of an emergency saving those minutes is imperative if God forbid there was injury or something really significant that were to occur.

We have a really good partnership with Barnegat police and we will continue that into next year as well as those shared service initiatives. That will all help; it does not replace the bodies.

I will tell you, I went to a security conference with the Chief of Police a couple of months ago and we were the only Superintendent/Chief team that went and there were almost no schools that had security officers at all. Because of the unfortunate situation which occurred in Connecticut many schools are implementing security. We are not cutting our entire security program, that would be detrimental to our students but when we have to make reductions across the district I am responsible for educating children and keeping them safe. So I have to find a way to do both; it is not easy and it is not what I would like to do. If it were up to me I would keep every job and hire additional, however, that would be a serious increase to the taxpayers and that is also another part of my responsibility. I don't know if you would like Ms. Lombardi to approach the microphone again, I think she had a question she was going to ask me before I commented on the police partnership.

Mrs. Lombardi: My question was answered.

Mrs. Olker: Is there anyone else?

Dan Oroziack, 141 Freedom Hills Drive: I have two children in the school district. First I want to point out we have some very lofty goals for the class of 2024-25 but I do not see how increasing all of our class sizes is going to get us there. Going from 18 to 25 or 22, it is going to have a huge impact on our classes. My wife is a teacher and I know we say we train for this and prepare for it, but it is not going to be the same and tougher to educate our children with that increase in class sizes.

Secondly, I saw the increase was 1.79% for the year. Are we allowed to go to 2%? You said it was a \$60 increase per a \$300K assessed house. What if you went to 2%; what would that be on a \$300K house and then what would that equate to in the number of positions you could save in the district?

Mrs. Olker: Mrs. LaGuardia can you answer? I know you can't do the math that quickly in your head.

Ms. Wood: While Mrs. LaGuardia looks at some of that, thank you, Mr. Oroziack. I would have to tell you that the funding is a little more complicated than simple math but because it is a request, Mrs. LaGuardia is working on that. You did bring up class size again so I will address it briefly. Interestingly enough although as an educator it is really a challenge and I agree with your sentiments and your wife's sentiments that we don't want to increase class size. It would not be the first thing we would want to do in a district plan. However, when we took a look at the overall needs of the district and the overall expenses of the district and the areas where reductions could occur, that was one that was identified. Part of the reason is believe it or not the research says that there is no decrease in learning with an increase in students. That changes after a certain number, so I need to qualify that statement. In other words, I am not saying there is no difference between 18 in a class and 40 in a class; there is absolutely a difference when you have that many students in a class; 100% and I know your wife knows that because she is a teacher. With the increase that we are looking at next year the research shows no change. For those of you who are parents, and I am a parent too, I worry about that as well. My son learns when he has more attention from his teacher, so I understand your concerns. I would say, again as Mrs. Olker started this open question and answer piece for all of you, that every effort will be made to try and not have these anticipated cuts become a reality. We are hoping for some retirements and that may help us in some ways. Do you have any other comments about class size before I turn it over to Mrs. LaGuardia?

Mr. Scotto: Yes, when we look at class size I know you are asking questions about elementary, but when making decisions regarding staffing it would be even more detrimental if you are using that term, but if class sizes that were large at the middle and high school levels got even larger that would be moving over

30 at the middle or high school level. I am sure there is no one in this audience, myself included, who wants to add kids to a class. However, we have to be mindful that it is our responsibility to make decisions pre-K to 12 not just the elementary level. One could say that is the foundation, you should have small classes there. Yes, those classes should be a little bit smaller but again I feel I am confident in this staff with the right teachers which we have and dedicated children and an increase in parental support, we will be fine. If we are to take class sizes at the middle school level by eliminating teachers on teams or stopping to offer electives, that would be the other option. As a former middle school language arts teacher teaching 35 students at the middle school level is impossible. At the high school level not giving kids the opportunity for electives and only offering core classes would put our kids at a disadvantage for college admissions. So it is very important that we, all of us in this room, understand that the class sizes were evaluated at the pre-K to 5 level; at the 6-8 level and 9-12 level.

Ms. Wood: The question I was asked earlier about how many positions would it save and at 1.79% that is .20% below the 2% and to our best estimation and remember this is only an estimate because you have to take a look at a lot of other things here, it wouldn't even save one position. So, unfortunately, if 2% were going to save four or five positions and I do not want to speak for the Board, but if 2% were going to save several positions I don't think we would be here talking about a 1.79% increase. I think we would be closer to 2% but at 1.79% we are not even looking at saving one position. I agree one position is important but to our best estimation the dollar cost is not that much.

Mr. Scott: We actually met the 2% increase in the general fund 10 budget but our debt service was lower so that is why the 1.79% is where it is at because the fund 40 actually offset the tax increase and we could not go up that much. That being said next year the numbers flip a little bit; the increase could be more. We are pretty much at the 2% in the general fund. That is pretty much what I would like to explain. A little difficult to try and run numbers here without a calculator or the program.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Karen Ray, and I work in the school district. I just wanted a point of clarification. You mentioned that if there were retirements coming up that you may be able to restore some of the positions that you are considering cutting. I was just wondering if that took into account the people that retired at the last board meeting already?

Ms. Wood: The number we proposed tonight did take into consideration the retirements that were already approved. Some were approved Tuesday and a couple in February. I wanted to correct one thing you said although you are certainly not wrong, but a retirement does not necessarily bring a position back.

Karen Ray, I meant to say if you have enough savings, but I was curious if you took them into account.

Ms. Wood: Yes.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Raphael Adorno, 441 East Bay Avenue: A couple of my questions that I am concerned about, I am disappointed again with the cuts but I know we do everything we can to try and save positions after formally sitting on the Board for four years. I know very well on how hard it is to make those decisions. You do not want to do them. Some of the things we need to look at in the future, and not that I want to say it does not look bright, but there is a concern because when you look at the affordable housing and the lower income housing that is coming in, there is no tax revenue on that it is just a bigger expense on the school district to pay for that because there are no taxes that will cover that. It is concerning because you will increase some class sizes and you may take into consideration that it may not happen but realistically

you need good foresight for the next two years. Something that I expressed while on the Board last year was with the 2% cap for five years in a row the Board of Education had a zero increase. Last year I started getting concerned because I knew we were having negotiations with the BEA and next year with the administration and realistically people need to know and understand you are going to have to raise taxes again next year. Whether you stay below the 2% this year, next year you might have to do 2.5%. It is poor fiscal planning if you do not increase every so often. You have to be able to stay in line with what is going to happen in the near future. You have to pay close attention to that so we are not looking at 35 more layoffs or not replacing some retirees. Some of that is concerning. It is not 35 full layoffs but you are letting people go. When we are letting people go, you are letting them go into an economy where there are not a lot of jobs out there.

The other thing is that the Board of Education is responsible for the unemployment so you will have your unemployment increase also happening which will be another substantial payment you will have to pay. That is my first part.

Some of the other concerns I have being Chairperson on the Athletic Committee for four years, I know that budget very well, inside and out, I have seen the \$96,000 for extracurricular and athletics. The concern that I have, I said it two years ago, and I said it last year, the athletic department has taken one too many for the team. I want to say that because it correlates to teaching and curriculum and providing a thorough and efficient education. A lot of children go to school and we have about 60% participation in this high school athletic program, if I understand those numbers. These kids do come to school as well because they know they have that out in the athletics so my concern is even if I was to split that \$96,000 in half if the budget from athletics was \$50,000 are you saying you are not cutting any sports or are you in some decreasing certain level of sports because referee fees, coaches' salaries some of the other NJISA costs they don't make up \$50,000. Middle school coaches only make about \$1100-\$1400 in sports to coach. I am a little concerned that it is a large number. I may be reading into it too much, I did not ask John any specific questions, I happen to know the budget fairly well in the athletics department. I am concerned that there could be some cuts in there or loss of sports whether in the middle school or particular levels.

The concern that I have is the life of an athlete going to school, they go to school, have their coach pushing them and making sure they are behaving and attendance is there and are excelling in their academics because that is the one initiative for the child. They have to do well in their grade so they can continue playing the sport that they love. I say that because my two children are athletes, they have good grades and we all know our kids will not be professional athletes but that is the one other additional thing they love and that is a concern for me. When you have approximately 30 student athletes in the last eight years go to Division I, Division II and Division III colleges and up to \$2M to Barnegat families paid for their children to continue their education in college, I am concerned that you do make any type of cut to athletics is not good. It is a small percent so I am concerned that if you are looking at saving \$40-50,000 just in the athletic department I just want to finish by saying athletics in Barnegat has taken one too many for the team in the last two years and I think you can find that elsewhere. So, please I don't know what is being cut but if it is being considered look at it a little bit more thoroughly. Those children need it at the freshman, sophomore, JV levels as well as some in the middle school. I just hope that is not what is actually on the cutting board.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else who would like to address the Board?

Patricia Brescia, I have three children in this school district and I live at 10 Village Drive and I am speaking as a parent. I am concerned about the special education cuts. I saw on the pie chart and I don't have the numbers in front of me but where it said special education it was black with instructional aides have been cut. I can say that I work with special education children, I am proud to and happily employed

here as a part-time instructional aide I thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of you. What I did want to impress since you mentioned that your projected budget is fluid and not carved in stone, it is just on behalf of the children that receive the special education, I know that many of them take to change differently than other students. They thrive on routine and I am very concerned about the aides' positions that you are changing to part time as the student goes through a 7 or 7 ½ hour day at school they come to know a certain routine and little kinks in the routine can throw a wrench in things sometimes. As an advocate for children and a longtime member of the PTA I just wanted to hope that maybe in your considerations you can remember that they are not numbers, they are children and these children really need to be able to have as normal a day as any other student. So if you have someone coming in and working with them in them in the morning and then someone different in the afternoon, that may affect their day and it does have a ripple effect in the classroom. So, I appreciate all the hard work you do and I know and understand how difficult it is to make this fiscal decisions, but I would like you to remember that the children that are going to be affected directly by those cuts, I am not talking about employees, I am not talking about full time positions or benefits for adults, I am strictly speaking on behalf of the children. I hope you are able to understand that they are affected by what goes on in the classroom and when there is a lot of change and disruption it effects their day. I hope you are able to see that and I thank you for your time.

Mrs. Olker: I would like to say something to you. I was a teacher for 35 years and a principal for ten years. I taught regular ed as well as special ed and I can assure you that the good of the students is certainly uppermost in my mind because that was my life. It is also uppermost for all of our Board members, and that is what we are concerned about first. Ms. Wood, would you care to elaborate again?

Mrs. Sarno: I just wanted to reiterate what Mrs. Olker said. We have one of our Board members who is also a teacher, she is not here tonight, but I know that she has an inclusion class so that is always on her mind as well. Being a parent of two children with IEPs and have been shuffled around schools but I think in the long run it has helped my children adapt better even though I was the parent on the other end saying consistency, consistency. They really do need consistency but our kids have been in the special education programs, one of them since about 2 ½. It is on all of our minds and I just wanted to say that whether the child is special ed or a regular ed I am hoping that all of our children have IEP because everyone is individual and everybody learns differently regardless of their learning experiences. I think every student should have as much consistency as possible because that is the best way to thrive in education.

Ms. Wood: One of the things I wanted to point out is that in this year's budget we are spending approximately 15.7% of our budget on special ed and next year it is 16.8% so we are increasing our financial support of the special education program. One of the things that Mr. Scotto spoke to was K-12 special education, would you make those comments one more time for everyone.

Mr. Scott: K-12 special education needs to be included in the budget because as our students move up through the grades we want to make sure that the programs and settings and least restrictive environments, or not so restricted environments so to speak, are provided throughout the whole educational program. There are pockets of all three models in the district which we have established and determined and assessed we need more of. So if you were to look at our middle school model that truly is the best practice model in the district. Those students will be coming to Barnegat High School in the fall and they will need the inclusive setting, the self-contained setting and the resource center setting.

In the area of paraprofessionals and meeting the one-on-one IEP requirements, when we were working on this budget and we were assessing the needs of our students we recognized and reminded ourselves many times that there are specific students in this district that will have the same aide for the day, not every single student. But we do know that there are some students because of the unique situation by nature of the disability, by nature of the consistency or the opportunity that the paraprofessional provides from the

minute they walk in to the minute they leave, needs to still be there. So for anyone to leave here today thinking that there will not be one one-on-one paraprofessional next year that is incorrect. We have looked at that and will continue to look at that but we also know that there are some students that as they are working well in their special education plan they are ready to transition from one-on-one to one-on-one in the a.m. and one-on-one in the p.m. If our goal is to have every student college and career ready there needs to be a time individually for each student to have that gradual release. Some students it will come next year, some students it may never come and some in three or four years. We have really looked at it case by case. Special Education at the high school level is a top priority in this budget because it needs to be.

Mrs. Olker: Mr. Sarno?

Scott Sarno, 7 Herkimer Court: I have one question and then some comments about some things. Who is the chair of the budget committee that put this budget together?

Some of the other points, a gentleman before asked about positions that were created recently. I know Mr. Scotto said there is only one head of curriculum but there is a new K-5 curriculum supervisor that was added last year and I think that was what he was referring to. You did not elaborate there but I think that is what he was getting at.

Secondly, the same gentleman referred to attorney fees. I know what he is talking about and last year when the Board adopted this motion, it set a very bad precedent for the Board because every time a Board member gets angry now at another Board member it will turn into bringing charges with attorney fees that are unfair to ask the public to pay. Just my opinion. I know that happened last year also.

One of the other things that people addressed was class size. Now, for people who have not been here long-term in the district, back in 2006 I was on the Board of Education and we passed the motion to expand the schools. All the schools were added on to and we built a new high school, a new elementary school with the anticipation at that time, I remember sitting down with the Township Committee, people from the County, the engineers about all the boom in housing that were going to be built. There was going to be thousands of houses and kids were coming and we heard it over and over from the Superintendent at that time. So that is why we added on to the schools, built the high school, moved from Southern and went from 24-28 kids in our classes then we went down to where we are now. The kids did not wind up coming and the houses were not built. Some of the other anticipated homes were not built because the housing bubble burst.

We went from 24-28 kids down to where we are now and yes, we are going back up but our district was ok. I do not think it will be a major impact moving forward. I know someone asked about why not go from 1.79% to 2% to save these positions. I was hoping you would address this. Most people don't understand that just recently they passed a new law that if you stay under the 2% the townspeople do not have to vote on the budget; if you go over they vote. I know two out of four years the town voted down the budget in the past and Mr. Adorno can attest to this because he is complaining about 24 positions being cut this year. When you were on the Board how many positions did you cut in 2009, 100+? So if you go over the 2% the risk of reward is very high. The budget can fail and we lost 100+ in one year and then 50+ the next year.

When you look at for the extra savings of maybe \$100-200K is it really worth that gamble because the Township Committee gets involved and they can say cut another \$1M off and that is what they did last time, I think they said cut \$2M off. You have to be careful when you get into that issue.

As far as athletics, I am huge in athletics and I agree as far as \$50,000 in cutting the athletic budget. I think there are other areas to touch but I also understand that athletics comes second to education. The only problem I have, Mr. Adorno made the comment that the last two years athletics has been cut but the last two years you were the chairperson of that committee and you were on the Board and now you are complaining that it is being cut this year. I agree, but I think that education is the most important aspect of our spending of our money moving forward with the district.

Mrs. Olker: Mr. Sarno, you asked who was the budget committee chair. I said for the bulk of the proceedings Mrs. Pilovsky was the chairman. At the end of the proceedings, the last two weeks, I took over the chair.

Mrs. Pilovsky: With that I would like to add we work as a team and we work very hard and put in numerous hours. The Chair is a title and I am proud to work with these people, Mrs. Olker, Mrs. Paulhus, Mr. Mihalik, the amount of hours we put into this budget and I want to say thank you for working together and I am proud to work next to you.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else?

Jake Taylor, 106 Newark Rd.: First I want to make a comment on the remark about being a small increase. To any senior on a fixed income any increase is an increase, a small increase has an effect on anybody on a fixed income. It is an increase and I would like some answers because if we had 70 less students than we did in 2010 and yes the cost is up but a big difference. The cost is still up. We also have an administrative cost of salaries going down yet the total administrative cost is up. Do we have more administrators than we had before? According to your figures that is the way it reads. In other words, the total cost is higher with less people. That is what it looks like unless you hired more administrators who do not teach the children.

On the \$50K on the TV studio, didn't the board get any money from the cable company that the town received? I would like that answer.

I would like to know why the cost went up even though we have 70 less students since 2010.

Mrs. Olker: We have several questions, one dealing with 70 less students but higher costs and one dealing with administrative costs and one dealing with recouping from the cable company.

Mr. Taylor: You have \$50K down for an expenditure for a TV studio and the town received something like \$80K from the cable company in their contract so I wanted to know if you got any of that?

Ms. Wood: I will start with the 2013-14 school year, Mrs. LaGuardia showed in the slide that cost of administration in 2012-13 was 6% and the cost in 2013-14 is 5.8% and we do have more administrators so what that means is the cost of administration has gone down even though we have more administrators than we had last year. However, I believe we only have one more and regarding that, I think because it came up twice, we stated we have one Director of Curriculum. Many years ago the model for Barnegat High School, and I will take some of Mr. Sarno's words, the projection for Barnegat was huge increases and houses built all over the place, the next Toms River of Ocean County. This was supposed to be a huge community and then the bottom of the housing market fell out and people did not build and the landscape of Barnegat changed. If I am not mistaken, and I don't want to misspeak because I arrived in 2011 after the budget was already set for the school year, but we used to have a Science Supervisor in the budget and that remained in the budget but was eliminated we did not have one anymore. When I came here one of things the Board asked me was do we really need a science supervisor. I said I do not think so but if we want to look at the projected growth of our students we need more consistency K-12. So Mr.

Scotto and I assessed the needs of the district and the recommendation was that a K-5 elementary supervisor which we did place in the budget for the 2012-13 school year and is still reflected in the 2013-14 school year. Remember the goals of the district and the requirements of the DOE if we are not providing early intervention and support for our students at the very bottom of the tree they will never grow and they need the strategies to support them. Those are some of the reasons behind that. So I am not sure what document you are referring to. I know what I have on Mrs. LaGuardia's pie chart from earlier.

Mr. Taylor: It was in the newspaper.

Ms. Wood: When was that in the newspaper?

Mr. Taylor: It was on the internet.

Ms. Wood: Is that last year's budget?

Mr. Taylor: No, this year's budget.

Ms. Wood: Is that the user friendly budget? I will ask Mrs. LaGuardia to look at that and I will answer your question on the TV studio. Could you repeat that?

Mr. Taylor: The TV studio, the administrative cost and the difference in the administrators. The administrators went up so you must have more than you had before and then someone asked about the 25 jobs and all she got was a smoky answer. I don't expect you to name names but you should be able to say 10 teachers, 3 coaches or 3 security guards. There has to be an overall picture not that you will go back sometime later and decide what 25 jobs are going to go. It has to be plainer than that.

Ms. Wood: It can and it can't be. I know Mrs. Olker does not want to do too much back and forth with audience. I will try and respect both Mr. Taylor and the feelings of the Board. I will use a very silly example but I am going to use one that has no bearing in a school district so that people can't say that the Superintendent said.

So for example, if at the high school we had four teachers who taught basket weaving, we don't offer basket weaving but if we did and we knew we had to reduce that program because students were not going to college for that particular craft anymore, we went from four to two. Maybe those four teachers were tenured so the two teachers that were being eliminated from those positions still have to have a position somewhere, but they have a certification in elementary education. That means that those two tenured teachers would bump non-tenured teachers at the elementary level perhaps if that is the certification. So, although I agree with you and I understand your frustration, I cannot stand and say exactly how many elementary, middle or high school people are affected because part of what the law requires is that our teachers are highly qualified and certificated for the content and/or grade level they teach. I can't stand here and tell you because if I make a mistake I am bound to that and I have employees that have not been notified of where they may or not be next year and that would not be fair to the staff. That is the only reason that I cannot speak in more detail. I apologize that I can't give you more. I think Mrs. LaGuardia has some information.

Mrs. LaGuardia: Actually, Mr. Taylor, this is last year's budget. The user friendly budget from the DOE will be posted tomorrow.

Mr. Taylor: You can't post it before the budget meeting?

Mrs. LaGuardia: Absolutely not. According to the law we cannot post it until the day after. So, it is a state website and I have to go in and do some check marks and check with the county office and after that it will be posted with tonight's presentation. I am sorry for that.

Mrs. Sarno: Do we have anything on the cable television?

Mrs. Olker: We will look into that.

Phil Checcia, 12 Windward Drive: As far as the cable situation goes, this was supposed to have been taken care of when Mr. Jones was here and Dr. Saxton was talking to the cable company. You had problems internally from what I understand with amplifiers, etc. that was supposed to have been taken care of by Bob Clifton, Governmental Relations at Comcast who happens to be a Freeholder in Monmouth County. Elaine Taylor is now Councilwoman and she met with our administrator and had a meeting. You will get your TV station as well as your communications courses to be put in because that was the plan to do all this. You were supposed to duplicate a college course here with internships instead of being high school interns and college interns working in corporate you would indoctrinate the eighth graders as interns into this situation so they would be prepared when they come into school for a course in communications so they can go to New House or Annenberg or Berkeley or Emerson and this was the plan. Now, I have been told a year ago April going back as far as 2011-12 which was the approval period for the PUC to do this for the school and the township. They are a year late; in fifteen days they are a year late. They had until April 1 to do it. That is in effect. Hopefully, you will put money into the budget to do that because you will have to utilize what Southern does. I would need to know, I was appointed to the cable committee, but you must deal with Elaine Taylor on this because the committee is here. They have been so lax in taking care of this, not the school district because you have nothing to do with anything outside of the walls of the school when it comes to cable other than preparing the students for the communications courses. That will back into the Brackman school.

The other is you have to stay on top of this.

Mrs. Olker: May I interrupt a moment. This meeting is a special meeting to deal with the budget. Your concerns about the cable program...

Mr. Checcia: Someone brought it up and I am bringing you up to date. We will get to the cable at another meeting but that is an imperative situation for you people. You are remiss in not taking care of the students with that and that should be discussed at any meeting because it was brought up by someone who was an ex-Board member. You didn't say anything before when it was brought up, Mrs. Olker, please.

Now, \$96,000 out of a sports budget...you know, sports in this town is a major factor and to cut \$96,000 from the sports programs is an insult.

Mrs. Olker: Excuse me, where did you get that figure?

Mr. Checcia: I saw it, wasn't it \$96,000? Oh, so how much will be coming from extracurricular?

Mrs. Olker: Mrs. LaGuardia can answer that.

Mr. Checcia: Any how much would come from athletics? Because we were told when we voted to build the school that this would exceed Southern Regional because our students had a good program there and it takes time to do that. You cut sports and extracurricular activities and you will see those cases outside have less trophies, less interest and there is no place other for social life other than the internet. That is

not really compared to sports good for the kids. Sports is a major project here and extracurricular. Don't cut a dime from that; not one dime. Were told we would have more than Southern; but you are doing a good job with the taxes. Keep the sports and extracurricular there; the town needs it because it is lacking on the committee side until they get their feet in this and get this straightened out.

Ms. Wood: I have our Athletic Director here, Mr. Germano and would ask him to speak on behalf of the sports programs because John has been here a long time and seen the growth of a lot of our programs and it is really important that you understand that no cut is a good cut; we don't want to cut teachers, we don't want to cut athletics and the reductions, unfortunately had to be made due to the budget situation that we are in. However, I don't do this alone. I do not sit in a room with a dart board and throw it up on whatever it lands on. I don't take a pair of scissors and cut things because it is not what I like to do. I would love to keep everybody but one of the things we did before looking at sports was to talk to Mr. Germano because he has seen the growth of our sports programs and I do value the athletics we have here and I am incredibly proud of our athletes and our academic athletes. Some of them have gone on to amazing colleges and universities. Mr. Davis, our head football coach, is one of the biggest proponents of making sure that our students have opportunities when they graduate. Some of our students, and this is true, may not have opportunity in an academic realm and do need the athletics to support that. So, we have kept intact our sports programs with the exception of a few. Mr. Germano can you talk a little about the high school sports program and what that will look like next year. I believe there was no impact to sports at the middle school only to coaches.

John Germano, Athletic Director: Mr. Adorno, Mrs. Sarno and Mr. Checcio I want to thank you for bringing up athletics because it is important and we do care very much about it and so does the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

They are student athletes first and we never debated that. In an attempt to try and share sacrifice because that is what it comes down to when you are dealing with budgets and there is not enough money to go around, everybody has to help out to do what we can do. Some are sitting in the audience and I have had conversations with them and they kind of know where we are at. No cut is a good cut. As the Athletic Director I stand before you and I am going to tell you that I am not going to sacrifice a program without a fight at least. We did not cut any sports. At the middle school everything is intact; we are losing a couple of coaches and the reason that I have not been able to share what coaches or how they might be is because each year we post for all the positions and some coaches come back and some do not, some retire or move on. So, we do not know exactly what type of money we will have to work through our hires.

As far as the high school is concerned, one of the biggest concerns that I wanted to make sure of was that if we did have to lose a program that the program would be sustained and absorbed by the sport. So if we were to say track and field at the high school is huge. We are looking at a cut of a coach but keeping the program. I don't know if we are going to go into all of the things because I don't know if I can speak to that.

Ms. Wood: Because it does impact staff so I understand why you are a little hesitant. So, what Mr. Germano is saying is that when we take a look at the overall piece of sports, for example, and these are anticipated cuts. If we have retirements that helps or if we are able to make some other changes that helps. Right now we are looking at some changes for next school year. For example, at the high school we are able to offer freshman, JV and varsity sports. Next year some of the proposed cuts are freshman programs. Although that is not what we want to do, what it does is allows for students to still perform at the JV level and participate in high school athletics. So, Mr. Germano could you tell me why you may look at a possible elimination of a freshman program as opposed to a middle school program?

Mr. Germano: Ok. Our middle school programs right now in my opinion are very financially sound for what the students get out of what the cost is to the taxpayers, it is extremely reasonable. Those kids need those programs to adequately prepare for the next level at the high school. They need the socialization skills that, in my opinion, are the critical years in their development. I was there and I did not forget where I came from. I was a middle school physical education teacher and had an awesome time, it was great. Those kids go through some changes from sixth grade to eighth grade; they meet new friends and explore new opportunities, some good and some bad. It is our job to try and keep them going the right way. If those programs are not there for those children I don't know what will be there for them. I thought hard when we discussed all of this and how do we do this. So I said don't touch middle school; let's look at freshman programs and see if our JV and Varsity programs are strong enough to absorb some of those athletes. In doing so it also allows the district to have additional resources to possibly save other potential positions in other areas. There is no good cut; I am not happy about it. I am hoping to try and save it. I have already spoken to Ms. Wood coming up with a few ideas from now until then to piece together what I can. Any time you have to make a cut or a reduction it is not good across the Board. I do tell you that I take full responsibility for my recommendations and I stand beside them and I will work hard to try and get everything I can and I hope that answered your question.

Ms. Wood: The last comment on Mr. Checcia's comments, Mrs. LaGuardia will follow up on some of your questions about the cable and the studio and licensing, etc. We will do follow up on that and quite honestly it died out when I had just gotten here so I don't know too much of the history but we will look into some of that for the future.

Mrs. Olker: Anyone else? Seeing none, may I have a motion to close the public session?

Mr. Caputo: So moved

Mrs. Sarno: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Olker: Under New Business we have the motion to pass the Resolution to adopt the 2013-14 school district budget, do I have a motion?

Mrs. Sarno: So moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mr. Mihalik	Yes
Mrs. Pilovsky	Yes
Mr. Caputo	Yes
Mrs. Paulhus	Yes
Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mrs. Sarno	Yes
Mrs. Olker	Yes

Resolved that the Barnegat Township Board of Education adopt the **2013-2014** School District Budget; and that adopted budget contains sufficient funds to meet all existing statutory and regulatory mandates as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 47,743,685	\$ 26,418,198
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 911,762	
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>2,840,542</u>	\$ <u>2,326,455</u>
Total Budget All Funds	\$ 51,495,989	
Total Tax Levy		\$ 28,744,653

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Olker: The next date for the Board of Education meeting is April 16, 2013 and the meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. May I have a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Caputo: So moved

Mrs. Sarno: Second

Mrs. LaGuardia: All in favor?

All: Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes LaGuardia
Business Administrator/Board Secretary