

*Barnegat Township  
School District*

**BARNEGAT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 31, 2009  
Tuesday, 6:30 PM**

Barnegat High School  
180 Bengal Blvd.  
Barnegat, NJ 08005

*OUR MISSION: The Barnegat Schools, in partnership with our community, nurture and educate our children in accordance with all core curriculum content standards to prepare them for responsible citizenship and success in life.*

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Houser: I would like to call the Special Meeting of March 31, 2009 of the Barnegat Township Board of Education meeting to order.

## **II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT**

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

## **III. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Adorno	Present
Mr. Davis	Present
Mrs. Mitchell	Present
Mrs. Pilovsky	Present
Mrs. Sarno	Present
Mr. Scully	Present
Mrs. Taylor	Present
Mrs. Becker	Present
Mr. Houser	Present

Also Present: Mr. Robert Mahon, Interim Superintendent  
 Mr. Dean Allison, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 Mr. Ben Montenegro, Board Attorney

## **IV. FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Houser: Would everyone please stand for the Flag Salute?

All: Pledge of Allegiance

## **V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND/OR ADDITIONS**

Mr. Houser: Under Approval of Agenda and/or Additions we have one change to finance committee motion #3, it is to update the bill list amount to \$1,328,012.21, to remove finance motion #10 and to waive having Executive Session and discussion. Do we have a motion?

Mrs. Taylor: So Moved

Mrs. Sarno: Second

Mr. Houser: Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

All: Aye

Mr. Houser: Opposed? Motion carried.

## **VI. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Mr. Houser: I am going to waive President Remarks today and move right on to the Public Hearing of 2009-2010 budget Power Point presentation by Mr. Mahon.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2009-2010 BUDGET POWER POINT PRESENTATION**

Mr. Mahon: Thank you. This evening we are presenting the 2009-2010 school budget for the Barnegat Township School System. This budget reflects the resources necessary to provide the programs and services that our district needs for next year. The process of budget development consists or begins with building budgets which our principals and supervisors, working with their staffs, prepare early in the year. This process starts sometime in November. When these budgets were organized they were submitted to Mr. Allison, our School Business Administrator, who compiled their requests into a district budget. Since school budgets are subject to a 4% spending cap, we recognize that our task was to begin to review the requests and also to make the necessary adjustments in order to meet that requirement. In addition to the state imposed cap, our Board of Education directed us to avoid any tax increase in the 2009-2010 budget. At the outset of this process I did not think that was very realistic, however, we did accomplish that task because they kept sending us out to make sure that we made that zero increase happen. So the budget that is being presented this evening meets all of the criterion that was established by the Board and also by the State.

Our first slide is a demonstration of the Barnegat Township Schools' enrollment. Basically, our enrollment has been somewhat staid in the last few years, it has not grown. This year's enrollment as we are projecting it there is 3,278 students. The enrollment projected for next year, the 09-10 is an estimated enrollment that would increase that enrollment by somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty or seventy students. So it really isn't growing that fast. That can be attributed to a number of things, but what is probably the primary cause is the fact that growth housing has sort of stopped or slowed down tremendously. That was one of the main factors in our township as to why our schools were growing the way they were a few years ago.

Our next slide, we have to coordinate this, Dean and I, illustrates the revenue side of the budget. Basically a budget is composed of two things; it is the revenue side which shows you where the money comes from and the appropriations side which shows you where the money is being spent. In our revenue side, as you can see the local tax levy is approximately one-half of the cost

of the operation of our district. It is 52%. Miscellaneous revenue is simply revenue from interest-bearing accounts that the district has and it is a minimal amount of money. Our budgeted fund balance which is the money that we applied from our surplus funds constitutes 2% of this budget. State aid for Barnegat Township is 45%, which is a pretty good percentage compared to other districts in the area and also compared to the state average. The state average for state aid is about 36-37%. So, we are above that so we do receive a reasonable amount of support from the state in terms of our revenue.

Our next slide illustrates that resource, our revenue, and where it comes from and what the differences are. It is a comparison between this year, the 08-09 revenue side of our budget and the proposed budget, and these are the state aid figures that we have received for 2009-2010. Because of the decrease in extraordinary aid, and extraordinary aid is that aid that we get for special ed costs that exceed a minimum amount. The state reimburses school districts up until this year was any cost in excess of \$40,000, the state reimburses you that money, supposedly. They do not reimburse you in the year in which the incidents occur, but they do eventually send you what they call extraordinary aid. Unfortunately, in anticipating extraordinary aid for next year, and that is what we have to do on some of these revenue areas, the cut-off that the state had at \$40,000 is now up to \$55,000. So, that explains the decrease in that area of our budget. As you can see in looking at the middle of the page, the estimated tax rate, the tax rate remains the same. On thing that might jump out at you if you have some of those papers that were handed out, the local levy which is up top there and is \$24,229,720, looks like it is higher than this year and it is higher by \$100,000, however, that difference is made up in increased ratables. Even though we do not have the type of growth we have had in previous years, there is still growth and that figure has been certified to us by the municipal manager who told us it was a safe figure to use.

Moving on to the Operating Budget, and this is the revenue side of our budget, it is the same pie-chart to illustrate how the money is spent. We saw where it came from and this is where it goes. You can see for yourself our major cost, of course, is the regular education program. We have very little capital outlay, when we get to a later slide you will see that we decreased the amount of capital outlay that we are using. There are some things we have to do, but we were very cautious about how we used that money.

Transportation constitutes 6 ½% of our total budget. We have a very large, very big program of transportation and we will have a better break-down of those figures as we go on, but it is a big item. There is also Operations and Maintenance, 11.6% of our budget; support; special education is another big area, 13.3% of our total budget is dedicated to special education programs.

The next slide is an illustration of the proposed expenditures that are included in this budget. If you go past that to the next slide, the first item on that expenditure page was regular education programs; there we have proposed expenditures of \$15,716,395 which is less than the 08-09 figure by about \$382,000. This portion of the budget includes all expenditures related to regular education programs. It includes salaries for K-12 regular education teachers and it includes all school-sponsored co-curricular activities. It includes school-sponsored athletics, it includes other

instructional programs and we note that we have an after-school program operating in many of our buildings and also evening education programs.

The OOD is out-of-district tuition retroactive and that is Southern Regional, we were paying tuition to Southern Regional for all the years that our students attended Southern Regional. We had hoped that we made the last payment, but unfortunately there was an adjusted payment for the last class that was there that amounted to \$362,000 and we were told by the Ocean County Business Administrator to include that in next year's budget so that accounts for some of the costs associated in the out-of-district tuition line item.

In terms of the regular education program, I will try and point out some of the things that we addressed when we were reviewing this budget in order to bring it into line with the wishes of the Board and also in order to bring it in line in terms of what the County expected us to do with it. We used to have permanent substitute positions in all of our buildings and they were used for a variety of purposes, it was a good support for us to have, but we have eliminated those positions. So, we will not longer have permanent substitutes next year. We also eliminated three kindergarten aides; we have right now seven aide positions in our kindergartens. There is not an aide this year for each class, however, there is one aide for at least every two classes and these people go back and forth between the kindergarten classes in each of the elementary schools and provide aide assistance where they can. We did not give up completely on kindergarten aides, but now there will be one kindergarten aide in each building so that was a reduction of three positions in this budget.

We also kept general supplies at the level they were at this year and, in fact, decreased them slightly. We do not have a textbook item in there because when we get to a later slide in order to meet our textbook needs, and I will talk a little bit about that in a few minutes, what we have done is lease/purchase textbooks. We had some distance to make up in bringing in up-to-date materials and we found that in order to accomplish our goal that the way we could do it was to lease-purchase them rather than buy them outright. So we have an item in this budget that does exactly that.

Our next slide illustrates our special education costs. This expenditure of \$6,196,277 is increased by \$747,211 over this year. It includes the salary for all special education teachers; it includes salaries for all special education aides. Right now we have 40 special education aides and in reviewing our needs for next year we found that we could do with fewer aides so we reduced three of those aide positions so next year we will have 37 special education aides. Children who are classified and have an Individual Education Plan which dictates the types of services that a school district has to provide. For instance, if a child needs an aide, either a one-on-one aide or if a class needs an aide in order to assist a teacher with some of the kids in that class then that is contained in the IEP. We have not violated any IEPs, we have met the requirements that we have in those IEPs and we were able to reduce three positions.

This area also includes all the supplies for special education; it includes our basic skills staff. In basic skills we have a number of teachers who are in regular budget and that is budget we are talking about here, and also additional people who are funded through Title I. So altogether I think we something like twelve budgeted positions and there are seven other teachers who are

paid through Title I. So we have quite a staff of basic skills people. Out of District Special Education tuition, and this sort of explains the majority of that increase, this year for instance we find ourselves \$400,000 in a hole in special education. The reason for that is that it wasn't poor planning, but during the course of this year we have had an influx of students who have come to the district, who are classified and have special needs. Many of them are students who are sent to private schools or other outside placements. So we have \$400,000 that we have to make up in this year's budget, we recognize that we have to take a closer look at the special ed tuition costs and make adjustments in next year's budget.

We have 42 students who attend other schools, 42 residents of Barnegat Township, classified students, who attend other schools and many of them private schools. They range in tuition for one student, \$25,000 to a high of \$94,000. In addition to the cost of the tuition there are also therapies included, if they need speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy there could be additional costs added to that bill. Also there is a transportation element to this and when we get to transportation we will talk a little bit about that because these kids that go to these special schools, some of which are in Monmouth County, Atlantic County and one in Middlesex County. This is an expense in terms of transportation that the district also has to bear. In terms of the \$400,000 that I talked about, we had children who moved into the district and we did not anticipate them because in special ed tuition you cannot anticipate additional children. You have to budget and you are required to budget only for the students that you have in your district. So, automatically when you get ten additional students that is quite an impact on the district. A number of them are placed outside the district which is even a bigger number.

Instructional Support – proposed expenditures of \$4,545,414 which is a reduction of about \$216,000. These include attendance and social services, we have an attendance person in this building and we have secretaries who have responsibilities for maintaining registers, attendance registers, part of their salary can be adjusted and charged to instructional support areas. We have health services, we have six full-time nurses, we have four part-time nurses and we have a doctor who serves the district and there is a stipend involved in that. There are health services supplies that are included in this area as well. We also have speech teachers, I believe we have five, and their salaries are included in this area. Our guidance department is included in this area; Child Study Team expenditures are included here. Improvement of Instructional Services – we had an Assistant Superintendent in this year's budget who retired in December and we did not replace that position. So the fact that we were able to save money in instructional support, partly due to the fact we reduced staff in that area.

Educational media services – our librarians, our library techs, and our techs are included as well. Instructional staff training – the training programs we use with our staff sending them out of the district to required workshops and helping them to maintain their responsibilities and requirements for certifications are also included in that area.

The next area that we have is school and business administration. This area is down \$70,246 from current year. We did some reductions in this area. We eliminated an Assistant Principal position; there were three Assistant Principals in the high school included in this year's budget. One of those positions will not be replaced next year so there will be two as there are right now. In the business office we had a change in the school business administrator position where we

had a school business administrator and also a board secretary. Those two positions are occupied by Dean and we had a substantial saving in those areas. Central services, most of that is computer-related funding, administrative technology. One adjustment that reflects the fact that we were able to save in this area as well is that there were two technicians who were in the budget and happened to be in the budget in the wrong category. They were in with maintenance, we moved them into this area so that gave us a slight increase but they are properly placed in terms of where they belong in that budget. So over all that category is down \$70,000.

Operations and Maintenance – This is down \$101,858 from the current year. It includes salaries for our custodians, for maintenance, for grounds and includes our security personnel. We presently have, I believe it is seven, what is it Tom? Six, I was close. Six security people and we also have in this budget a category of employees in security, the building greeters; they are the people who man the front doors. That category consisted of I believe nine people and we have eliminated greeters from next year's budget. The way we were able to do that first of all when we were looking through this budget and trying to find ways to reduce costs, you eventually and inevitably you come to personnel and when we looked at the greeters we felt we could cover that responsibility; that is, the controlling of entrance into our buildings in another way and a more efficient way. Certainly, they did a tremendous service to the district during the year and they will continue to do that, hopefully, for the remainder of this school year, but it was a position that we felt we could eliminate or consolidate in another area. So we will have one security person in each of our buildings, and we are upgrading to a T-Pass system which is a computerized system which requires people to identify themselves when they come into a building and give some background information to the security person who is there. It also includes the supervisory staff for maintenance and grounds and custodians and includes all of the supplies used in that program and the two technicians I talked about being placed in the wrong section of the budget, we are taking them out where they were, they were in Operations and Maintenance this year, we moved them to the School and Business Administration side.

Our next category is Transportation. We are proposing here expenditures of \$3,026,039 which is an increase of \$4,452. It includes 44 drivers, three mechanics, six aides, a supervisor of transportation, supplies necessary for that program, insurance, vehicle insurance, equipment. We are required to replace school buses when they reach a certain age, I think they can be ten years old, there is a mileage or an age factor that dictates when we have to replace them. We were looking ahead, Bill Cox, who is the supervisor in that department, looked ahead and saw that between this year and next year we would end up having to replace something like six or seven buses. So, what we did was split it, we are letting a few go a little early on trade in and buying three new vehicles. Those vehicles will be lease/purchased. One of the things we were anxious to do this year is to begin to build up a different kind of a vehicle, one that is equipped with child restraints built into the seating. Since pre-school looks like it is coming and it did come to a number of school districts this year, we are looking forward to the fact that we are going to have to have a pre-school program for the district as well and would need that kind of equipment. We could use it now because we do have one pre-school program.

Our out-of-district special education transportation jointures – besides our own transportation program we have jointures with other school districts in that special ed area for instance where you have a lot of school districts in the same area going to the same special school, we get

together and share the cost of it so that is an item in our budget. It is a pretty big item, I think we have \$500,000 budgeted in that area. We do a lot of transporting on our own and we do a lot of transporting in conjunction with other school districts.

The next slide gives us an idea of what employee benefits cost. The proposed expenditure is \$8,895,000 and that is an increase of \$29,748. It includes social security, pension contributions because there are some of our employees we do have to pay a pension contribution, we don't for teachers, TPAF covers teachers and certified staff members, PERS covers non-certified staff members so we do have a cost factor associated with the PERS employee group. The unemployment insurance, our workman's compensation program and medical, dental and prescription insurance for all eligible employees. The final item is medical buy-back. In our district we encourage people who do not need the coverage that is, spouse has the coverage, not to take it and we give them an incentive to do that by giving them one-half the cost of that benefit. So, if somebody has family coverage and in the neighborhood of \$15,000, they would get \$7,500 and we would save \$7,500 by them not electing to have the coverage. It used to be a coordination of benefits system which dictated that only one family member would have it, but unions insisted that it was a benefit that every employee was entitled to and therefore the buy back system came into play. It still saves us a substantial amount of money, but it is a cost factor. If you look at our budget you will see that listed, I think we have somewhere around \$750,000 included in our budget to cover buy backs.

Capital Outlay – Our proposed expenditures are \$257,162 which is down \$116,000 from the current budget. The things that we want to do, we are looking to buy audio/visual equipment. We opened the Donahue School last year and it opened at the last minute, actually, in fact there were people working there on Labor Day weekend trying to get things in order. So a lot of equipment was not purchased and one of the areas that school is very short of is in AV equipment, projectors and that sort of thing so we did put some money in the budget in order to upgrade the level of audio/visual equipment available in the Donahue School. We have some buildings and grounds equipment, we are buying one vehicle, I think it is a van, and a few other pieces of equipment. At the Collins School we have \$110,000 budgeted in order to replace the flashing on a portion of that roof. We have serious roof leaks in Collins so we budgeted that money as a capital expenditure to repair that roof. It is a job that should be done, hopefully, this summer.

Another area of our budget has to do with debt service. We have a certain amount of debt for a lot of the construction that has occurred in the district over the years. The amount that we are required to budget there is up \$2,731. That is debt that has already been incurred; we are not talking about additional or new debt. We are required to make that payment and it has to do with principle and interest in our debt service.

A couple of comments about the budget. We feel that it maintains all of the education programs currently available at our schools. We have not increased class size and we have not really reduced the support systems, supplies, etc. that are necessary in our schools. We have included in the budget funds to upgrade computer equipment in the high school and the middle school. We are purchasing actually 176 computers and establishing a new computer lab, an additional computer lab in the Brackman School and we are also purchasing another 176 computers for

computer labs at the high school. Each of those schools will get a new lab, an additional lab, and in addition to that we are replacing outdated equipment. I think it is plus five years at least, Megan, that we are replacing. That is something we felt we had to keep in the budget because we have a problem with equipment breaking down and we also have a limited availability for teachers who would like to bring a class into a computer lab. This will provide them with that opportunity.

We also, I talked about text books before. For the last number of years since opening the high school, it has been necessary, one of the first things we had to do was purchase text books to support our high school. That cost was the primary and had the priority in previous budgets in terms of text book purchases. So little was done or not enough was done in the elementary schools in order to keep abreast of the materials that are necessary in those classrooms. So what we are talking about purchasing next year, and again, it will be lease/purchase because we are buying quite a bit of it is a new ILA Language Arts series in grades K-2 and new science textbooks for grades 2, 3 4 and 5. That ILA Language Arts series last year was purchased for grades 3, 4 and 5 so this would complete the series in the elementary schools. Those are some of the things that we feel the budget has accomplished even though we attempted to make it realistic in terms of keeping out a tax increase and certainly meeting our requirements in terms of what the cap required us to do.

There was a lot of effort put into this budget, and of course if the product isn't worth anything then the effort was a waste. I do not think it was a waste, it is a budget that meets the needs of this district, and I think it is a budget that will allow us to continue the kinds of quality programs that do exist in the school district for the next school year. I think the fact that the Board was so insistent about its concern in terms of tax impact because of what our economy is going through today and the kinds of hardships that people have, we were able to provide this kind of a budget and propose to you this kind of budget without any tax increase at all. I think that is a very big plus. You will not find many school budgets this year that can say that. The fact that we had to reduce staff, when we first started out we hoped to avoid doing any of that but we had some direction from the county office. When they looked at our budget and when they talked to Dean and certainly he can make whatever comments he wants about this budget, they pointed out they were concerned about our administrative costs that was too high, which we did address. They were also concerned about the number of aides that we had and they suggested that unless an IEP, Individual Educational Plan, requires an aide that we should not have aides. They were pointing towards our kindergarten aides. We think our kindergarten aides do a very fine job and are a big support system for our kindergarten teachers. But, concerning everything that was involved and the fact that we were looking to keep this budget as tight as we could, unfortunately, we had to reduce some of those positions.

As far as the greeters were concerned, they felt we were over in security, we felt in looking at it that certainly our greeters did an outstanding job. In terms of public relations, I found as a newcomer to this district that it was very nice to walk into any one of our buildings because we had people sitting right there who were gracious, welcoming and did a very good job. However, unfortunately, those positions too had to go in order to keep this budget as tight as we wanted it to be. So, I recommend to you that you give careful review of the documentation that is available outside the auditorium and you also take a look, if you want to, it is on our website, you

can look at the budget. If you have any questions at all after you leave here, you can feel free to call either one of us, Dean Allison or myself, and we would be happy to provide whatever information we have. That concludes the presentation and at this point, Bob, should I open it up for questions?

### VIII. PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Houser: 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) minute 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 Board of Education Policy, each participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface their comments by and 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 meeting to public comments?

Mrs. Taylor: So Moved

Mr. Adorno: Second

Mr. Houser: Discussion? All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

All: Aye.

Mr. Houser: Opposed? Motion carried. We are open for Public Session would anyone like to come up and speak? Yes, Mam.

Voice: The buses? The buses are not, we have looked into hybrids. Brian, do they have hybrid vans?

Inaudible questions from audience.

Mr. Mahon: I know Mr. Houser was going to meet with the President from Waretown, Ocean Township and that was the topic of discussion wasn't it?

Mr. Houser: That is not going to happen until the budget vote on the 21<sup>st</sup>, but yes they have contacted us and their Business Administrator is going to set that up with Mr. Allison and we will meet right after the budget on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Mahon: Anyone else? Any other questions out there?

Mr. Houser: Seeing none, we will have a motion to close Public Comment.

Mr. Mahon: Oh, I am sorry.

Ralph Splendorio, First Street, no affiliation: I have to admit after hearing the presentation this is the first time I have been to a Board of Education meeting where we discussed the budget and the educational needs of the students were not the first priority. It is clear from this budget that the first priority was the reduction of the tax rate which is a noble goal but the first priority should be meeting the educational needs of the district. As part of the Finance Chair and working with Linda, up there, in the past, we have had zero tax increases and every year we had a zero tax increase we increased the amount of money that went into the classroom per student each year. Yet, this year it is going down. First time in memory that I know that less money is going to the classroom this year than it did in years before that.

It is clear from this budget and what concerns me the most is that you don't even have enough money in this budget to fund the benefits and salaries for the staff given the current contract you have. You said that benefits and salaries included pension, medical benefits, what medical benefits have not gone up? So either something here doesn't mix. I was budget & finance chair for over ten years in this committee and there is no way in the world you can fund the current budget, the current employee base with the current contract with no increase in budget, virtually none. That means to me you either (a) planning on increasing class size or layoffs or (b) you somehow have gotten some agreement with the union that they are going to change their benefits structure because you don't get to zero from here even if you allow people to go up the salary guide, right? They get salary increases even if they do not take an increase over that. Right there you have a salary increase, don't tell me we are not getting bills from our insurance carriers that have no increases in them. I just don't believe it.

The debt service hasn't gone up, but yet three years ago when the candidates that are running now were running they said that they opposed any increase in debt that does not go to the taxpayers for a vote, yet of course the objective was to have a zero tax increase, so we are using leasing of books to push those expenses into the future. In all due respect all that is in my view is nothing but a way to let the taxpayers think they are getting a bargain, don't spend the money now but some Joe Blow will pay it tomorrow; so we are moving expenses from today into tomorrow. You have \$1M from the surplus yet you did not increase the budget this year. So that means if you don't come in this year \$1M below what you are spending, what your budget is, you are not going to have the \$1M to put in the surplus next year. So, what have you done? You have moved a \$1M tax increase into the following year.

As I see this between the salaries and benefits and the surplus and the Russian roulette we are playing with the budget here, but we will layoff people not because we don't need the positions but because we want a zero tax increase. You are about \$2M - \$2 1/2M short here so you have fudged \$2M- \$2 1/2M, and basically that is about an 8-10% increase in the taxes because we collect 60% of our revenue stream in taxes you need to balance. So, I am deeply concerned, I would like to know and I doubt I will get an answer, what exactly do you project to be your free surplus after the end of the year and what percent of that are you applying to the budget this year? In salaries and wages and benefits what you are finishing this year at, what do you project your finishing balance this year and how much of that are you increasing or decreasing, if not what is in the budget or you actually spent over next year? You are hiding money, you are

borrowing money, you are trying to borrow money without going to the public which you said three years ago was horrible when we talked about it, and you said, Oh, my God we can't do it but you are doing it now because it serves your purposes.

Mr. Allison: Mr. Splendorio, your time is up.

Mr. Splendorio: I don't think we cut any positions in nursing because I wonder why? I appreciate your time and I would appreciate answers to my questions.

Mr. Mahon: Well, let me comment on those I can remember. I think when you talk about lease/purchase and you mix it in with debt service you are talking about two different things. I think the people here should know that too because they are not the same thing. Lease/purchasing, let me explain a lease/purchase. We had a need in textbooks and as I said the priority had been given to the high school since the high school is a new building and program for this district and what happened was we did not replace books each year going from year to year in the K-5 program and as a result we are talking about K-5 materials that have a copyright date of 1996 so that was why we did what we did. We could have done a series of purchases over a couple of years, purchased 20-25% and then the next year another 25% more, but we felt in order to get all of those materials up front and pay-off over a period of time was a better expenditure in terms of student needs and school needs.

As far as talking about that we said nothing about education or did nothing about education, it was not a priority in this budget, it certainly was a priority. As far as staffing is concerned there have been no changes in staffing.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: I did not interrupt you, let me finish. OK, I'll get to that. We did not reduce staff, we have the same number of positions in this budget, certified teaching positions, that we had in the previous budget. It is the same staff for approximately the same enrollment. So as far as staffing is concerned we do not have a problem with that. You asked about or commented about what are we doing about...this year is the last year of a three-year agreement so therefore we are negotiating with teachers. I am not going to stand here and discuss with the public, because it does not make any sense, what we are doing in terms of those negotiations. We have made some estimates and are very confident that we can resolve these contracts with the resources we have in this budget.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: There are increases. If you looked in that budget you will find...

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: This is increased salary money in this budget. I would suggest...excuse me?

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: You said you were the Finance Chairman, did you have anything to do with negotiations. OK, then why would you ask me a question like that when we are in negotiations? It does not make any sense.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: No, but I am not going to stand here and say to you it is “x” percentage or this kind of money in there because...

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Houser: Mr. Splendorio, you are out of order. Would you please sit down and let the man answer the questions or we are going to ask you to leave.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: Yes, Mam?

Susan Gorman: Hi, my name is Susan Gorman, 21 Janelle Drive. Everybody probably knows me, we all know each other. Anyway, my question is in the beginning of your speech you said that you did not think you could come in at zero percent tax increase. Then you were told you had to, I want to know who told you.

Mr. Mahon: Part of the budget building process involves the Board of Education. The Board placed a priority on zero increase and I can understand where they are coming from. We looked at it. In any budget that I have been involved in and I have been involved in an awful lot of them, it is always, when you start the process it is always hard to imagine you are going to be able to do this without spending any additional money without a tax increase. That is what prompted my initial comment, I did not think we could do it, but we did do it. Yes, Mam?

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: Well, in terms of the Board’s role in the operation of a school district, that certainly is an area they would have something to say about. Now, what it caused us to do was when we went back and looked at the budget and reviewed the budget and we made decisions as to how we could operate that budget without increasing taxes.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: Well, that is an opinion and you are entitled to your opinion. As I said in terms of classroom staff, certified staff, we did not make those cuts. The things that we made reductions in the area of instructional aides, and again, the majority of those people are in special education and they were driven by IEPs which dictated that we did not need all the people we had.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: No, I have not. We do not have full-time aides in the kindergarten classes right now.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: Special Ed – we are meeting our requirements in Special Ed. We can't go...we were advised by the County that we had too many people. The County calls the shots; they have to approve our budget.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: I hear what you are saying, I hear your opinion. Yes, sir?

Lou Balka, President of the Barnegat Education Association: I just want to assure my members and take this back. There was a comment made that the union must have made their agreement with the Board on health benefits diminishing to make this budget work. Dismiss that. This union did not make any agreement with the Board on any salaries or benefits; in fact, we have not even officially sat down at the table. So bring that back to your membership and coworkers, that no agreement has been made. Thank you.

Mr. Mahon: Yes, sir?

Tom Kostka, 36 Anchor Road: I do have a question as a parent and a taxpayer that concerns me greatly. It has to do with the security; you said you have six security guards in district. Six security guards and you have nine greeter/security people at the front entrances of the school. They were part-time people who did not get benefits or anything like that, right? Off the top of your head do you know how much you saved by eliminating nine positions?

Mr. Mahon: \$93,000

Mr. Kostka: \$93,000. OK, now if we take those remain six security guards and spread them out from two schools to six schools that leave you with one security guard in each school is that right?

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Kostka: Well that is not what you said before; you said there would be one in each school. So we will not have any security whatsoever in Donahue?

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Kostka: Well, I am sorry to say in this day and age, we have people walking into nursing homes, you hear about what happens in schools. You are taking what little security we have in these buildings and you are spreading them sparsely throughout the district which is unacceptable. Rafael, you of all people, I would expect more from.

Mr. Mahon: Anyone else?

Jake Taylor, 106 Newark Road: I want to compliment the Board on a good job of bringing the budget in. I am a long-time resident with no tax increase. You have not cut any of the education programs and you have hit some of the fat where it was in the administration. That is where it was and everybody knew it. You brought things in line and you are doing a good job and I am pretty sure the residents in Barnegat as well as myself are glad you are coming in with no tax increase and keeping our quality of education the same as it always has been. Thanks a lot.

Maryanne Clemente, 565 East Bay: It is kind of disturbing to me to hear people talking about that all everybody is looking at is increases, increases, increases. This country is in trouble right now and to other towns who are looking for the unions to cooperate with the towns to renegotiate contracts, to not take increases, to have furloughs, to do whatever they can in their particular communities to save on budget items. All I hear not only from the school comments from the audience and the township is that they just keep spending and spending and spending. We are in trouble and I think that this Board did a tremendous job in keeping the budget even. Last year they were fortunate and reduced it by 5 cents. The town though increased by 5 cents so we did not save anything, but I look for people to reduce your budget. That is what anybody in management and business does. They are supposed to reduce expenses and increase revenue. So, I think they did an excellent job and I am proud of them.

Mr. Mahon: Yes, Mam?

Karen Ray, 3 Sloop Court: I just want to comment on one of the past comments I heard. Somebody said something about in the past we have had times when we had no tax increase but we were able to increase programs and not hold things status quo or decrease them. The one thing the person that said that neglected to say was in those years we had an increase in state aid and sometimes it was a 3-5% increase in state aid. If the state gives you 5% more of your budget you can add an awful lot with 5% and you can't pat yourself on the back for that you have to thank the state of New Jersey. That is not the primary reason I got up here. I just wanted to thank the Board for one major thing that you did add the technology. Our students today go out into the world and they need to have the computer knowledge. They need to be able to show computer skills on almost any job they take anywhere. By increasing our computer labs in the middle school and the high school you are better preparing our students for the workforce. We spend a lot of money in both the middle school and the high school for computer databases. If we do not update our technology that money you may as well take it and burn it because without the computers working properly all the time without the computers being able to work at the speed they need to, without our computer people who are here right now, our children could not even utilize that information, they could not use it for their research, it would be useless to us. So, thank you for taking care of that in a time when money is really tight. I know you had to make some hard decisions here and all we can hope is you made the right ones. It sounds like you are on the right track by increasing technology because it is very important today. I see it in the children that graduated last year and come back to visit. I see it in our high school students, it is really important and you did a good job in that regard. Thank you.

Mr. Mahon: Yes, Mam?

Linda Cellini: I teach fifth grade over at the Dunfee School. I just want to thank the Board and I want the public to understand that there is a thing called the county budget cap. So, it is not just that the Board was so interested in keeping everything even, they are also under some restrictions from the county and as much as we might be not too happy about that, that is the situation and that is what we have to deal with. So I want to thank the Board for, I know, many hours spent, many, many hours spent trying to do the best job for our students within the budgetary confinements of our town and our county. Thank you.

Sue Mayo: I live on Ravenwood in Barnegat and I also teach at the Donahue School, but my children go to the Collins School. I just have a question, first of all I would like to thank you for working so hard and doing what you have been doing up there. My question is about the security at the Collins School. Right now they have the greeter in there and I am a little concerned about losing that greeter because what happens when someone walks in, you are saying maybe a security guard, but that office when you first walk in there are two ways that you can walk and I am concerned about people walking in and nobody seeing that person walking in. So, did you say something about that you would be locking the doors and maybe some kind of code, I was not sure if I misunderstood that.

Mr. Mahon: The doors will be locked, there will be a security person inside, and I know what you are talking about, but the person can be positioned in such a way as to be able to cover both of those and they will have the T-pass system right there at the desk they are sitting at. So they will really occupy the same spot or similar spot to what the greeter is occupying now. Alright?

Mrs. Sarno: Mr. Mahon, could you maybe for the public explain the T-pass system a little bit more or Mr. Topoleski could explain it more?

Mr. Topoleski: Sure, I will explain it.

Mrs. Sarno: Thank you.

Mr. Topoleski: I thought I was going to have to talk about this sooner or later. The system that we are bringing into the schools is called the T-pass system. It is a system designed specifically for visitor management in the school district. When a person comes in they have to present a government issued I.D., preferably a NJ driver's license which is bar coded on the back. The driver's license is inserted into the card reader and T-pass automatically scans the Genesis system which is replacing SASSI which deals with custody issues and it also scans NJ sex offender's database. So the minute that the card goes in there if that screen turns red we know we have somebody we do not want in the school. Also, the nice thing about the T-pass system is if somebody comes in to pick up a child the system can be set up so like Mom and Dad will get a text message that Dad is there to pick the child up and Mom will get a text message on her cell phone that Dad just showed up to pick little Johnny up. This way if Mom was concerned if Dad got there or not T-pass is going to notify her the minute he gets there and slides his card through the reader that he is there, the child is being picked up. The same way if the child is not supposed to be picked up it gives her an immediate number to call us and say do not let him take

him there is a problem. With the Genesis system we hope to get custody issues in there where if somebody can only pick up a child on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, T-pass reads that and it will tell the security officer at the desk that this person is not allowed to pick the child up because it is Tuesday. Then an automatic text message goes out to the custody parents saying there is someone here to pick up the child what do you want us to do?

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Topoleski: No, there will be a human there. There will be a security officer there because he will be looking at the screen. If something is wrong, the screen turns red immediately to tell him there is a problem he has to look to see if they came up on the sex offender's database, if a custody issue, if for some reason somebody put something in there that a child cannot leave for a certain reason it will notify them immediately.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Topoleski: Yes, yes. If somebody comes in, first of all the picture has to match the person and yes, it comes from both sides because it is tied right into the state database. We also have the ability when somebody comes in to immediately take their photo if for some reason there photos...you know when you go to motor vehicle and renew your license for four years come back in four years and use the same picture for the next four years that was taken four years ago. With T-pass you are actually facing a camera on this thing, the screen which if we see the photo is out of date on the license where let's say you had a big head of hair and now you are bald, we can ask, nothing personal I am just using an example, we can get a new picture immediately which puts it right into the database so if you come back in again when your license goes in your current picture comes up.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Topoleski: It should be in place by September.

Mr. Mahon: Thanks, Tom. Yes?

Kelly Ford, 102 Vivas: I just have a question about the lease/purchase of the textbooks. Is it a five year lease?

Mr. Mahon: Yes.

Ms. Ford: Do you happen to know how much it will cost when all is said and done compared to if we were to buy it right now?

Mr. Mahon: Dean correct me if I am wrong here. It is a five year lease and the rate that was quoted to us today was 3.75%?

Mr. Allison: 3.83% is what the bank is quoting. So it actually lower than I had anticipated.

Mr. Mahon: The difference was if we had pieced them out over a few years maybe we would have saved a little bit of money, but we would not have the materials. This way we have the materials up front and we will pay for them, it will restrict some textbook purchases in the future for a couple of years, but we thought it was a better way to go.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: The security guards we already have, they are in the budget. They were in last year and the year before, I don't know how long they have been here. There is no increase in that.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: Yes. There will be two here in the high school permanently and one in each of the three elementary schools and Brackman and the one in Donahue, we will not have somebody in Donahue. That is the only building we will not have. In terms of the cost of the piece of equipment, the T-pass, Dean is that \$18,000?

Mr. Allison: Yes, just a little shy of \$19,000 and that is a one-time thing. We will have an ongoing maintenance but it is low.

Mr. Mahon: The savings was the \$93,000 that I quoted, that is what we took out of the budget.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: The point is we are not hiring additional security guards; we are reassigning the ones we already have. We are not increasing the number.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Mahon: There is one in the back of the room.

Voice from audience: (inaudible)

Mr. Topoleski: We are bumping one up from evenings to days and then we are bumping one out of the high school to one of the elementary schools.

Voice: I am sorry, the question was we are going to have the same number of security guards and now they are going to be reassigned to be at the front and interact with the system and whatever they were doing before they are not going to be doing that now so what were they doing before that was not needed so that they can be reassigned to interact with the system so we don't need greeters who are much less expensive and I think probably more accurate for having people looking there would be better. Not saying this won't work, I am just saying that having a system plus a full paid security guard seems a little more expensive unless what they were doing before wasn't needed before. That is all I am trying to clear up.

Mr. Topoleski: Without going into great detail on security issues which is not really something we should discuss in public, it is a realignment of staff. They were needed before but we have managed through time because when we started with security in the high school we did not have four full classes. So through instituting policies and realigning assignments so that we get more production out of each member of the security department we were able to realign the staff where we are not going to have one full time on evenings any more because a lot of these events security is budgeted into it where we can bring a sub in because the money has already been appropriated for security and we can pay a sub to come in and cover when there is an actual event in evenings. There are some nights that there is nothing going on in the buildings so no reason to have someone there full time. So that is how we will cover it by bumping one person up from nights and covering that with subs that are budgeted into the different activities and then realigning some people on days because we have become better at what we do. It is a learning process with security. You try things out and if it doesn't work you readjust it and sometimes it works better than you expect and you can send the person off to do another job. Like I said without going into great detail about security issues because we really do not want to make a lot of that public, that is the best way I can explain it to you.

Mr. Mahon: Thanks, Tom. Anyone else? Yes sir?

Scott Sarno, 7 Herkimer Court: I just want to start off first by thanking the Board for, I think, a great budget you put together and for helping us taxpayers here in Barnegat. I have been, this is my seventh year being involved in the school district, I have never come to a school budget presentation like this and seen so many sad faces, unhappy faces, about a no tax increase without effecting the education of your children. I know a lot of the people that got up have political agendas and they were disappointed to find out that the budget is not going up, taxes are not going up. Obviously, I think it hurts their campaign but that is beside the point.

I just had two questions for the Board. I did not interrupt anyone when you were talking. When was the \$300,000 tuition that we owe Southern this year, what year was that from?

Mr. Allison: That was the last senior class we had there in 2006/07. The way that works and I know with your experience you have encountered it, is that basically they charge tuition for our senior class that was there in 2006-07 and then if their certified costs, this is not something they control, the state actually puts their actual expenses. If their actual expenses exceed what they charge us in tuition then they are allowed to retroactively charge us for the differential. That is what is happening. We did not think it was going to happen this year; it was a real negative surprise. I have been assured that next year we are done because that is the last full class that we had in there. The reason it is so high is because we had 200-300 kids there in the senior class. So even it was only a couple hundred dollars per kid it adds up and that is why the number is so large.

Mr. Sarno: The other issue I had too was that I know there has been a big issue on attorney fees. I know some of the people, and Board members sitting up there have addressed it in the past. Have the attorney fees actually gone down in the district this year. Do you have any idea off hand?

Mr. Mahon: Didn't we budget the same amount of money?

Mr. Allison: In the new year we actually are flat on attorney fees. We are going to have to be careful of those as we go forward. This year we are spending a lot less than we did last year, but one of the things we need to do is to try and keep some of the litigation down if we can. That is what runs up the attorney fees is litigation. You never know exactly what is going to happen but you try do the best you can to avoid any litigation.

Mr. Sarno: I heard a comment, everyone is talking about security, security and the safety of our children, but I heard somebody back there saying, I guess referring to Mrs. Houser's wife, that we are not going to cut any nurses, I am sure. But, you are not concerned about the safety and health of our children when it comes to cutting nurses and much as that person back here brought up cutting nurses. He is concerned about greeters, not security guards, greeters at the front door. I have been into most of the schools here in this district and met a lot of the greeters. They are greeters, just that. They are not security guards, they are not armed, they are not going to tackle you if you try running past them, or chase you down and beat you up and stop you from going in. They are people who greet you, shake your hand and say sign here at the desk. I think you are going a little crazy with the greeters.

Also, are we still going to have the SROs in the school next year? I did not hear anyone mention that because I think they are also here to protect our children are they not?

Voice from audience: Yes, one in the high school and one in the middle school.

Mr. Sarno: OK. Another thing that people forgot to mention. And another thing people are so upset that taxes were not raised, don't forget last year the budget failed overwhelmingly and what do you think would happen this year, and I am sure the Board took this into consideration, if you put a 2, 3, 4, 5 cent tax increase to keep the greeters and the few things that I know would be taken out, what do you think would happen to the budget this year. See, you are complaining about cutting a couple hundred thousand dollars, but last year they had to cut \$500,000. You think if the budget failed again this year what would happen? Maybe \$500,000, I know Mrs. Mitchell last year you talked about maybe \$2M cutting off? Maybe it would be \$2M this year and if you think just greeters would be going you would be losing a lot more than greeters if this budget fails again this year. It is something to keep in mind when you stand there complaining about non-educational staff that is being removed. I think it is being a little petty on some people here.

Mr. Scully: Mr. Mahon?

Mr. Mahon: Yes

Mr. Scully: Can I just talk about the security? If you look at it where I have seen an increase to security in the schools. There have been security guards in each school, the doors will be locked, when I first came on and asked about the greeters I was told they were the first line of defense. I wonder if the greeters were told they were a first line of defense. I was an SRO for five years; you do not want a greeter being the first line of defense. If somebody really wants to get into a

school you are going to have another person hurt. So, to say we are losing security if you look at the big picture, we are getting a new security system for the security officers to put our license into the machine to see who is supposed to go in and who is supposed to go out. We are going to have a security guard in each school, check around the state and see how many schools have security guards in them. OK? Then like Mr. Sarno just said, and SRO in the middle school, and SRO in the high school. Check how many middle schools have SROs in them around the state. So when you are talking about increasing security, we are increasing security and we are not low on security. And let the greeters know that they are the first line of defense, I am sure they didn't know that. Thank you.

Mr. Mahon: Yes, Mam?

Mrs. Mitchell: I spoke to a greeter and I did ask her that and she did know that.

Mr. Scully: Well most of them I talked to did not know that. Thank you.

Mr. Adorno: I do want to make a small comment on top of what Kevin said. I do sit on the Security and Technology Committees as well. One thing I guess people do tend to forget. If you go around and take a look at the majority of schools in New Jersey or other states, the doors are locked. They are. The doors would be locked and someone would be bringing you in, buzzing you in. If you look at Donahue, yes, I am concerned, I am not going to speak just about my children here because many of my friends' children are in Donahue and I will tell you to have a secondary are the doors. The doors are locked and there is a door that you can enter into the office. So the first set of doors would be open and the second set of doors would be locked and the only way you are getting into the school is by walking into the main office. So, when you get a little concerned about not seeing a security guard at the Donahue School, I know firsthand that is where my children are. Again, the thing Kevin touched on was I do not believe the greeters knew that they were actually first-line of defense. Linda Mitchell told me that just the other day that they were. That is what I got concerned about because many of them are personal friends of mine as well. That is all I would like to say.

Mr. Mahon: Yes, Mam?

Kim Lally, 42 Bowline: I was really hoping I would not have to bring this up, but I will every single time Mr. Sarno mentions attorney fees. Maybe you would have been able to keep one of those positions that you had to cut if Mr. Sarno did not bring up a frivolous lawsuit and not bother to show up at the hearing. I think that, I agree you have to cut out some of the attorney fees, absolutely, but My God you can't be the person complaining about the money being spent and being the problem at the same time. It makes...you can laugh all you want. It absolutely makes no sense. So perhaps if you are so concerned about what the district spent on attorneys you will have the guts to show up at the hearing that you bring forth. I am very disappointed that you did not show up but I am not surprised.

Mr. Mahon: Question?

Pam Hogan, 115 Vivas Drive: Mr. Sarno, I just wanted to let you know as a parent is almost never about a tax increase, it is about the quality of education that our children are receiving and also I think we can all agree that the reason the school budget did not pass last year is because of the ridiculous antics related to the school board vote. Thank you.

Mr. Mahon: Anyone else?

Mr. Houser: I just wanted to make one comment regarding the positions that are being cut. We just wanted to let you know that generally on a monthly basis we have openings in the school district. You can look at the Agenda tonight and this is actually a small Agenda because we are doing the budget presentation, but we did have to hire some people on an emergency basis so they are on the Agenda tonight. We will go through having 75-80 positions open from June through September and you can see on the Agenda almost on a monthly basis where we are filling ten, fifteen, twenty. So we fully expect the people with the positions that are being cut to be able to apply for other positions, and we fully expect that these same people will stay here if they desire. We understand positions are cut, we understand that nobody likes to see positions cut but the truth of the matter is we were \$2 1/2M over adequacy as far as the state was concerned. People say, well, who cares what the county says, who cares what the state says, well they are the ones giving us aid. The problem is we will not get any additional money and in fact we may in the future get less aid if we do not start doing what the state mandates and what the county superintendent is telling us. So, we have to move forward and look at some positions and we know this is the budget and we told you last year when we cut the budget we made some hard decisions. In fact we took our curriculum supervisor and she opened an elementary school for us and we appreciated that. That saved us some money and when the time came and it was right, we moved the Vice Principal up to the Principal at that school and we appreciated that. That saved us money and that was the right thing to do and we told you when the time came and they both felt it was the time to make the change, we would make the change.

So what we are telling you here is this is a budget if there is an issue moving forward and we have to make changes, we will make changes for the betterment of your children. That is what we are here for, we are here for the students and we will make those decisions moving forward. This is a budget put forward to be approved by the state, we have to cut these positions, we have to make smart decisions with the state and we have to look at those because you know what, if we don't do them it will effect the quality of education. If they were to turn around and give us less money in aid next year because we are over adequacy what are we going to do then? Then we will have to look at cutting programs and we do not want to do that. So we are looking at positions that the state is telling us have to be cut, we are doing what the state is telling us to do moving forward and like we told you we are going to look at these things as we move forward in the year and if decisions have to be made to make changes, we will make those changes as a Board because we are here for the students. We were fully told by the administrators that the budget would not effect the quality of education, in fact the feeling was it would enhance the quality of education because of all these computers coming in, textbooks that are coming in that were do important for the district because a lot of these things did not happen over the years. It was time to make those decisions and bring them into the school district. With that I am going to ask the Board to make a Motion to close Public Session.

Mrs. Taylor: So Moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mr. Houser: All in favor signify by saying Aye.

All: Aye

Mr. Houser: Opposed? Motion carried. We are going to go on to the Approval of the Minutes.

## **IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2009.

Mr. Houser: Do we have a Motion to approve Executive Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2009?

Mr. Davis: So Moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mr. Houser: Discussion? Roll Call.

Mr. Adorno:	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mrs. Mitchell	Abstain
Mrs. Pilovsky	Yes
Mrs. Sarno	Yes
Mr. Scully	Yes
Mrs. Taylor	Yes
Mrs. Becker	Yes
Mr. Houser	Yes

## **X. FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Mr. Houser: Motion to approve Finance Committee Motions #1-15 with the change to #3 and the removal of #10. Do we have a Motion?

Mrs. Pilovsky: So Moved

Mrs. Becker: Second

Mr. Houser: Discussion?

Mr. Adorno: I have something I would like to speak about Mr. Houser. For Section 11, I just want for the record to be understood that we are approving the freezer/cooler replacements over at Dunfee School. I wanted to know that I believe it is supposed to be some error in mechanics that the equipment broke due to SDA work. I don't know if we need to have Mr. Shanley from Buildings and Grounds discuss that. I just wanted it for the record that we are spending \$17,000 to replace something that they have partial blame for breaking. I do not believe we should be approving that in some sense. I am just concerned and would like it on the record that they are responsible for a percentage of that.

Mr. Allison: Maybe I could respond and it would be good for the audience to know too. Ms. Pilovsky actually brought that up initially and she said, wait a minutes, aren't they supposed to pay something? Our intent is to bill them for 25%, I am not sure, Brian would have to say if it is 25% but that was versus repair versus buying new. Since they were old equipment we elected to buy them. We fully intend to pursue this and get back at least 25% of that. We will bill the contractors because you are absolutely right they did do the damage to cause them to fail prematurely.

Mr. Adorno: That is what I meant; I just wanted that on the record. Just one other question for #15. Is this at no cost for Spiegle Architect to be able to apply for that grant? There is no cost involved in that?

Mr. Allison: No, there will be a little and I asked Brian, actually Mr. Davis asked the same question before the meeting. We will incur a small amount. First of all he will do a feasibility study. The reason this is on in such a rush is that there is a deadline for us to file for this grant which is April 17 and that would be before our next meeting. He is going to take a look at all of our buildings and check it out and in some way he determines based upon our kilowatt usage whether or not our grant has a good chance of success. The estimate for him to do that broad-gauge initial thing is \$500 or less. If he does determine that we should file the grant and go forward, yes he will charge us some more but I think Brian said in the neighborhood of \$400-500 per location.

Mr. Adorno: Thank you.

Mr. Houser: Roll call

Mr. Adorno                    Yes

Mr. Davis                    No on 1 and 2 and yes on the rest

Mrs. Mitchell                Numbers 1-4, no; 5-9, yes and 11-15, abstain

Mrs. Pilovsky                Yes

Mrs. Sarno                    Yes

Mr. Scully                    Yes

Mrs. Taylor                    Yes

Mrs. Becker Yes

Mr. Houser Yes

Mrs. Taylor: Mr. Houser, may I say something?

Mr. Houser: Sure

Mrs. Taylor: For the past three years while I sat on this Board I have been told one thing over and over again not only by Mrs. Mitchell while she was Board President but also by the New Jersey School Boards Association and that is no matter how much we disagreed in the back room that there are two things we should come out unanimously on. They are the central staff administration, the hiring and their contracts as well as the budget. I was hoping that everyone here could have moved on beyond politics and supported this budget so we could move forward for the betterment of our children, our staff and our community. Thank you.

Mrs. Mitchell: And, Mrs. Taylor, my vote is my own and to use Mr. Houser's words for the past three years, I vote my conscience, that is my conscience and I don't have to say yes to that if I don't agree with that.

Mrs. Taylor: I agree with you 100%, Mam, but what you have told us as a certified School Board Member and I have been badgered in the back room when I did not want to vote for Mr. Falkowski's contract was that we need to come out unanimous, we need to come out unanimous and you have always told me that and I followed that because it was what you suggested and what the NJ School Boards.

Mrs. Mitchell: I understand that but it has been a heck of a year on this Board, we didn't all work on this, all nine of us together, I have been badgered and badgered. I don't agree with some things and as I said, my vote is my own. The people elect me to have my opinion and have my vote.

Mrs. Taylor: I just wish you would have told me that when I...

Mrs. Mitchell: Actually, we are out of order because this discussion should have taken place before the vote on this.

Mr. Houser: Unfortunately, you could not make the meeting with the Administrator's on the budget. Alright, we are going to move on to Personnel Motions.

Mrs. Mitchell: No, I couldn't make it and you have meetings and you don't even say you are having a meeting.

Mr. Houser: Do I have a Motion?

#### 1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR THE FY 2009-2010.

A Motion to approve the School District Budget for the FY 2009-2010 School Year for submission to the voters as follows:

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>LOCAL TAX LEVY</b>
Total General Fund	46,753,360	24,229,720
Total Special Revenue Fund	1,076,826	-----
Total Debt Service Fund	2,868,234	2,162,004
Totals	50,698,420	26,391,724

2. MOTION TO CERTIFY THE BUDGET PUBLIC QUESTION FOR THE APRIL 21, 2009 SCHOOL ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that there should be raised for General Funds \$24,229,720 for the ensuing School Year (2009-2010).

3. MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,328,012.21; MARCH PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500,053.22.
4. MOTION TO APPROVE HANDCHECKS WRITTEN FOR MARCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17, 021.95.
5. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION STUDENTS:

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
DB	Horbelt School	2/9/09 until further notice
KD	DYFS Placement	28 days @ \$35 per day
PS	Donahue School	2/18/09 until 4/1/09
AC	Barnegat High School	3/5/09 – 3/26/09
IV	Brackman Middle School	3/16/09 – until further notice
NC	Barnegat High School	2/27/09 – end of year
AR	Horbelt School	3/11/09 – 2 months
PD	Brackman Middle School	1/23/09 extended to 4/5/09

6. Motion to approve the following workshops:

NAME	SCHOOL	WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE	LOCATION	WORKSHOP FEE	MILEAGE	TOLLS /PARKING	TOTAL
Karen McKeon	BHS	Supv. Agents of Change	4/27, 5/4 & 5/11	Monroe Twp.	\$175.00	\$196.41	--	\$371.41
Fran Sauer	CSCS	Reading & Writing Conf.	4/3/09	Somerset	\$195.00	\$69.30	\$3.00	\$267.30
Colleen Scrimenti	BHS	Reading & Writing Conf.	4/3/09	Somerset	\$195.00	\$69.30	\$3.00	\$267.30
Debra Kreudl	BHS	Struggling Student	4/2/09	Monroe Twp.	--	\$67.00	--	\$ 67.00
Karen McKeon	BHS	HS Graduation Campaign	5/29/09	Camden	--	\$57.43	--	\$ 57.43
Karen McKeon	BHS	NJDOE NCLB Meeting	4/2/09	West Windsor	--	\$52.73	--	\$ 52.73
Erin Connors	HS	Genetically Modified Crops	5/14 & 5/15	North Branch	\$25.00	\$180.57	--	\$222.57

7. Motion to approve the following Out-of-District Placements:

STUDENT	PLACEMENT	TUITION	TRANSPORTATION
ZB	Children's Home, Mount Holly, NJ	\$50,459.40 = 180 days x \$280.33 per day (prorated approx. 62 days x \$280.33 = \$17,380.46	Residential

8. Motion to approve payment for administration of HSPA test to homebound student (NC) – 7 hours and 45 minutes for \$286.75 to Dawn Cavell.
9. Motion to submit the Title I SINI Reward Grant application to receive \$8,865.00 for the Russell O. Brackman Middle School.
10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: **THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING.**
11. Motion to approve the lowest quote by Weathervane Service, Inc., 62 Lower Main Street, Matawan, NJ 07747 to provide, install, set-up, charge and test complete new walk-in refrigeration package for both freezer and cooler to replace existing systems which are approximately 30 years old and running on obsolete refrigerant types at the Lillian M. Dunfee School at a cost of \$17,477.25.
12. Motion to approve the lowest quote by Peterson Service Company, Inc., 234 Route 70, Medford, NJ 08055 to provide replacement of Media Center

compressor as per specifications at a cost of \$3,948, for the Robert L. Horbelt School.

13. Motion to approve the lowest quote by Automated Building Controls, Inc., 3320 Route 66, Neptune, NJ 07753 to replace five condenser fan motors and leave two on site for spare as per specifications. Proposal includes 7 condenser fan motors, all necessary mounting and rigging material, all necessary labor to install five at a cost of \$13,000 for the Barnegat High School.
14. Motion to approve the lowest quote by Automated Building Controls, Inc., 3320 Route 66, Neptune, NJ 07753 to furnish and install all necessary material and labor as per invoice G9065 for the boys and girls gym units. Proposal will include (4) compressors; (2) compressor retrofit kits; (5) drier cores; (1) 1 5/8 suction shell; (2) 7/8 ball valves; (2) 1 5/8 ball valves; (4) compressor contractors with auxiliaries; (10) fuses; all copper fittings and pipe; all necessary recovery and removal of existing R22, brazing, evacuation, nitrogen and charge with new R22; all necessary labor for a cost of \$20,475.00 at the Russell O. Brackman School.
15. Motion to approve the gym/cafeteria lighting upgrade project at all six schools; the submission to the Department of Education for ROD grant consideration; and Spiegle Architectural Group to submit the project to the Department of Education on behalf of the Barnegat School District. Submission for grant to DOE by April 17, 2009 deadline.

## **XI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

### **A. NOTIFICATION OF RESIGNATION – NON-CERTIFIED STAFF (3) – SY 2008-2009**

*Ryan Vilardi, Part-time Custodian, has verbally resigned effective March 5, 2009.*

*Stephen Alvare, Security Guard, has submitted his letter of resignation effective March 19, 2009.*

*Terri Morelli, Part-time Instructional Aide, has submitted her letter of resignation effective May 1, 2009.*

### **B. NOTIFICATION OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE – NON-CERTIFIED STAFF – SY 2008-2009**

*Derek Spodofora, Full-time Custodian, has submitted notification of a medical leave of absence effective March 20, 2009. A tentative return-to-work date will follow.*

C. NOTIFICATION OF EXTENSION OF MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE –  
NON-CERTIFIED STAFF – SY 2008-2009

*Judith Higgins, Curriculum Secretary, has submitted notification of an extension to her medical leave of absence return-to-work date of March 2, 2009 to March 10, 2009.*

D. NOTIFICATION OF EXTENSION OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE (2) –  
CERTIFIED STAFF – S008-2009

*Cara Walters, ILA Teacher at Barnegat High School, has submitted notification of an extension to her leave of absence for maternity purposes return-to-work date of September 1, 2009 to September 1, 2010.*

*Victoria Rizzo, ILA Teacher at the Brackman School, has submitted notification of an extension to her leave of absence for maternity purposes return-to-work date of March 28, 2009 to June 1, 2009.*

## **XII. PERSONNEL – MOTIONS**

Mr. Houser: May I have a Motion to approve Personnel Motions 1-6?

Mrs. Pilovsky: So Moved

Mr. Scully: Second

Mr. Houser: Discussion? Roll call.

Mr. Adorno	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mrs. Mitchell	Yes
Mrs. Pilovsky	Yes
Mrs. Sarno	Yes
Mr. Scully	Yes
Mrs. Taylor	Yes
Mrs. Becker	Yes
Mr. Houser	Abstain on #1, yes to the rest

1. APPROVE HIRING SUBSTITUTE STAFF (11) – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve hiring the following as Substitute Staff for the 2008-2009 school year:*

*Certified Staff*

- 1. James, Denise – Applying for Substitute Certificate - LPN*
- 2. Dorman, Andrew – Substitute Certificate*

3. *Herring, Michael – Substitute Certificate*
4. *Wend, William – Substitute Certificate*
5. *Ciaramella, Karen – Certified Substitute*
6. *McCoy, Pia – Certified Substitute*

*Support Staff*

7. *Ciaramella, Karen – Secretary, Library Tech, Instructional Aide & Playground/Café Aide*
8. *Duarte, Samantha – Secretary & Playground/Café Aide*
9. *Gerhauser, Stephen – Security Officer*
10. *Menichetti, Kimberly – Instructional Aide & Playground/Café Aide*
11. *Pannone, Mary Ellen - Library Tech, Instructional Aide & Playground/Café Aide*

2. APPROVE SALARY CORRECTION – ELEMENTARY BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES TEACHER – RLHS – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve the salary correction for Debra Majewski from \$42,000 Step 1/BA (pro-rated) to 42,710 Step 1/BA+15 (pro-rated).*

3. APPROVE TITLE CHANGE – COORDINATOR OF SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY TO SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY SUPERVISOR – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve the title change of Megan Vile from Coordinator of Science/Technology to Supervisor of Science/Technology without an increase in salary, for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Vile has been issued a New Jersey Supervisor Certification.*

4. APPROVE NON-CERTIFIED STAFF TRANSFER – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve the following voluntary non-certified staff transfers for the 2008-2009 school year:*

*Karen McKittrick, Full-time Instructional Aide from JTDS to RLHS due to assignment transfer.*

5. APPROVE HIRING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION/TESTING PERSONNEL – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve hiring the following as Kindergarten Registration/Testing Personnel for the 2008-2009 school year:*

*Kindergarten Teachers (3). Stipend: Overtime Contracted Rate - \$36/hr (2 ½ hrs. total each):*

1. *Beth Cartegna*

2. *Janice Papola*
3. *Cheryl LaFerrara*

*Secretary. Stipend: Overtime Contracted Rate - \$18hr (2 ½ hrs. total):*  
4. *Donna Decker*

6. APPROVE HIRING REBEL COUNSELOR/TEACHER – SY 2008-2009

*Motion to approve hiring Katherine Melanson as Rebel Counselor/Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. Stipend: \$500.*

### **XIII. EDUCATION COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Mr. Houser: Moving on to Education Committee Motions, Motion to approve #1.

Mrs. Becker: So Moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mr. Adorno	Yes
Mr. Davis	Yes
Mrs. Mitchell	Yes
Mrs. Pilovsky	Yes
Mrs. Sarno	Yes
Mr. Scully	Yes
Mrs. Taylor	Yes
Mrs. Becker	Yes
Mr. Houser	Yes

1. MOTION TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF IMMIGRATION STUDENT COUNT REPORT TO NJDOE

*The State requires the reporting of immigrant students attending public elementary and secondary schools within the district. The numbers within this report identify students who are 3 to 21; were not born in any State, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands; and have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more States for more than three full academic years (those immigrant students enrolled after July 1, 2006) to include the country of origin. Report Submission is due by April 15, 2009.*

### **XIV. EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION**

### **XV. ROLL CALL**

### **XVI. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Houser: Moving on to Old Business, is there any Old Business? Seeing none we will move on to New Business.

## **XVII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Becker: I would like to take a moment to inform the public. I do not think anybody realizes that when Mr. Allison came in here there were some issues with the Central Office where he did not have any information to move forward with so he had to rebuild this budget from scratch because information was gone, computers were having difficulty retrieving information so he put a lot into it and he was also hit with new regulations which basically, I think, a lot of people do not understand. The County Superintendent does have a tremendous amount of power right now and the County BA and if you do not do what they direct you to do when they point out an area, they will not approve your budget to submit to the State. So, Mr. Allison worked a tremendous amount of hours and anybody that drove by that Board office saw his white car sitting out there weekends, evenings and all this while having surgery on his arm and trying to maintain a happy marital relationship without being home. So, I really want to thank him, I think he has done an outstanding job; it was a big undertaking for a few months that he had to put into this. So, thank you.

Mr. Allison: Thank you very much. I know my limitations and I do what is necessary but I thank Mrs. Becker for those kind comments, but I have to also look at our Interim Superintendent. You saw his car out there a lot of extra hours too, before we could even bring it to the Board spent hours and hours and we were there late in the evenings. I told him a couple of times and I meant it sincerely, without his help I would have never made it. So, I do want to thank you as well.

## **XVIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Houser: We will move on to Superintendent's comments.

Mr. Mahon: I have said enough.

## **XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Houser: The next scheduled Barnegat Township Board of Education meeting is going to be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. With that may I have a meeting to adjourn?

Mrs. Taylor: So Moved

Mrs. Pilovsky: Second

Mr. Houser: All in favor signify by saying Aye.

All: Aye

Mr. Houser: Opposed? Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Allison  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

