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**Official Minutes of the  
Holland Township Board of Education  
Milford, NJ 08848**

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**Special January Board Meeting: January 25, 2011 6:30 P.M.**

**Time and Place**

The Special Board Meeting was held on January 25, 2011 by the Board of Education of the Holland Township School District, Hunterdon County, in the Auditorium of the Holland Township Elementary School, 714 Milford-Warren Glen Road, Milford, New Jersey 08848

**Sunshine Notice**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through the public notice on January 13, 2011 by:

- A. Faxing to the Express-Times
- B. Posting on the District Website and the bulletin board in the main hallway of the school
- C. Filing with the Clerk of the Township of Holland

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Scheibener.

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present:	McDowall, Moebus, Schneider, Scott, Somers, Soucie, Vandenburg, Geissler, Scheibener
Absent:	None
School Personnel Present:	Mr. Suarez, Superintendent, Mrs. Postma, SBA/Brd Sec.; Nancy Yard, Principal; Kathy Stannard, Supv. of Special Services
Public Present:	36 Visitors

**Public Comment and Input on the Development of the 2011/2012 School Budget**

Mr. Massau, Jeanette Lane, Milford stated that the students should be the number one priority, secondary to that should be staffing salaries and benefits.

Mrs. Mickey, Woodsedge Road, stated the idea of having parent volunteers to assist with programs. A formal parent volunteer program could cover the costs associated with paying funds to teachers for programs. The BOE should review cutting field trips while maintaining the core educational programs. She also suggested sharing administration to reduce costs, such as having a CSA and Principal as one position instead of the cost of two personnel. She also added that the district should explore energy savings plans.

Mr. McDowall commented that the BOE explored the idea of sharing administration prior to hiring Mr. Suarez. At that time there was no interest in sharing; currently we share the costs of programs throughout our regional school districts.

Mr. Massau, Jeanette Lane stated that we have a top heavy staffing and the cost per pupil should be reduced by reducing staff. He questioned the necessity of having a Superintendent. He also stated his personal opinion of not being in favor of exploring saving energy through solar panels, as they are not worth the expensive cost.

Mr. Suarez stated that the law requires each school district to have a Superintendent.

Mrs. Tramo questioned the BOE on what is currently on the list to be reduced from the budget. She also questioned the bus requirements for preschool and asked why busing services are provided for the program.

Mrs. Scheibener stated that she would like to see services cut first instead of people.

Mr. Suarez stated the requirement of transportation for the preschool disability students.

Mrs. Weeks stated how shared services should be explored as well as combining district services, such as cooperative purchasing. Mr. Suarez and Mrs. Postma commented on all the current cooperative jointures which create a cost savings to the district.

Mrs. Weeks also stated that academics should be the highest priority and maintaining full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Suarez commented that class trips are not funded by the BOE and the PTO has assisted in funding many activities for the district.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Moebus, seconded by Mr. Somers to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm

**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Postma, RSBA/Board Secretary