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

Special March Board Meeting: March 2, 2011 7:00 P.M.
Budget Work Session

Time and Place

The Special Board Meeting was held on March 2, 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 February 25, 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 7:23 p.m. by President Scheibener.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:	McDowall, Moebus, Schneider, Scott (7:23 p.m.), 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:	65 Visitors

Comments from the Board:

- Thanked the public for attending and announced that a public hearing would be held at the end of March to finalize the budget to be submitted to the voters.
- Mr. Geissler announced the positive results of the Annual PTO Casino Night

Comments from the Superintendent:

- Superintendent Suarez announced the preliminary assessment of the QSAC evaluation; the District will once again be considered a “High Performing School District” from the review. He also thanked everyone for their hard work with preparation of the QSAC review.

Superintendent and BOE Budget Review/Discussion

- Mrs. Postma announced the State Aid release of figures for the 2011/12 budget
- Mr. Suarez reviewed the budgeting options with the increase in state funding: Announcing his recommendation which he feels makes the most educational sense would be to recommend the return of funds for the 5th grade teacher, return general supply funding approximately \$3,800 and apply the remaining \$23,674 to the health benefits expenditure line to assist in any increase January 1, 2012. These recommendations maintain the 2% cap in levy. However, Mr. Suarez stated that he could agree with the reinstatement of the teacher and tax relief with the remaining \$28,000 as another option.
- Vice-President Geissler stated that he agrees to fund the 5th grade teacher and reinstate this original budget reduction.
- Mr. McDowall also added that his first priority is to educate the children of the school and agrees that the transition from 4th to 5th would be difficult with a higher class size. He added that he would like to hear from the public on input on budget.
- Mr. Schneider stated that he agreed to add back the 5th grade teacher and look to return the remaining funds back to tax relief.
- Mr. Moebus stated that he would like a flat budget with no tax increase and it is time to tighten the budget.
- Mr. Soucie stated that he supports Mr. Suarez’s recommendation and to allow the voters a chance to have a say in the school budget. The vote is their opportunity to be heard.
- Mrs. Vandenburg agreed with Mr. Schneider; reinstate the 5th grade teacher and return the remaining funds to decrease the tax levy.
- Mr. Somers agrees to reinstate the 5th grade teacher for the opportunity to provide and deliver a great education. He also stated that he agrees with Emil’s recommendation to provide a quality education. Mr. Somers stated that although it’s an increase in taxes, the returned value is in a quality education.
- Vice-President Geissler stated his support to Mr. Suarez’s recommendation. He also stated that he agreed with funding the health benefits expenditures, based on being concerned with the lack of funds budgeted for the unforeseen increase in costs.

- President Scheibener stated how the budget struggle continues; an option to review would be that any unanticipated revenue for the state returned back to the taxpayers, or an option to return some funds. She stated that she feels strongly about taxpayer relief during these bad economic times.

Public Comment:

- The fifth grade teaching team presented their beliefs on maintaining the teacher staffing in the fifth grade; They discussed the negative impact of reducing a teacher in the 5th grade. They also reviewed the current structure and educational benefits to maintaining the current teaching level.

MOTION by Mr. Geissler to move Resolutions J-1, J-2, and J-3, seconded by Mr. Soucie, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Resolution J - 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Holland Township Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b) the Holland Township Board of Education shall establish, in the annual school budget, a maximum expenditure account that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2011-2012 school year;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Holland Township Board of Education hereby establishes the school district maximum within the 2011-2012 tentative budget at the sum of \$65,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in this amount is a maximum regular business travel amount of \$1,500 per employee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Holland Township Board of Education established a maximum school district travel amount of \$65,000 for the 2010-2011 budget and \$5,077 has been approved to be expended as of February 2011; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amounts are not exceeded.

Resolution J - 2

BE IT RESOLVED, the Holland Township Board of Education approves the following line items within the 2011-2012 tentative budget:

Professional Services:

<i>Attorney</i>	\$10,000
<i>Auditor</i>	\$17,000
<i>Architect (regular services)</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>School Physician</i>	\$ 5,500
<i>Neurologist Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Psychologist Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Audiologist Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Speech Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Behaviorist Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Summit Speech Special Education Svcs</i>	\$14,000
<i>J. Murphy Behaviorist</i>	\$35,000
<i>Occupational Therapist</i>	\$75,000
<i>Physical Therapist</i>	\$30,000

RESOLUTION J – 3 Enclosure: Preliminary Budget 3/2/2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the Holland Township Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the 2011-2012 tentative budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this district's Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards;

BE IT RESOLVED the Holland Township Board of Education adopts the 2011-2012 tentative budget in the amount of \$10,339,209 and authorizes its submission to the Hunterdon County Executive County Superintendent for approval as follows:

	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
General Fund:	\$9,892,547	\$8,213,039
Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 166,229	\$0
Debt Service Fund:	\$ 280,433	\$ 280,433

WHEREAS the 2011-2012 Budget Expenditures are as follows

General Fund: \$9,892,547
TOTAL GENERAL FUND: \$9,892,547

Special Revenue Grants Fund: \$166,229

TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND: \$166,229

Debt Service Fund:

Interest on Bond: \$11,433

Principal: \$269,000

TOTAL DEBT SVC FUND: \$280,433

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the 2011-2012 Budget is supported by the following Revenue:

Budgeted Fund Balance Gen: \$74,721

Regular Interest: \$3,000

Rental Income: \$6,000

State of New Jersey Aid: \$1,531,465

Federal Funds: Education Jobs Fund: \$63,822

General Fund Tax Levy: \$8,213,039

Debt Service Tax Levy: \$280,433

Special Revenue (Grants) \$166,229

Capital Reserve Interest \$500

FURTHER RESOLVED to accept the New Jersey State Aide for the 2011-2012 school budget in the following amounts by category:

Special Education Aid \$354,568

Equalization Aid \$1,176,897

TOTAL: \$1,531,465

With a Reduction of Assessment of SDA Funds (\$10,965) identified as a budgeted expense in Fund 12;

FURTHER RESOLVED to accept the Federal Education Jobs Fund in the amount of \$63,822 as General Fund Revenue;

RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$ 8,213,039 in taxes for the ensuing school year, 2011-2012, as represented as the ballot question in the School Election April 27,2011.

WHEREAS, the Holland Township School District has proposed programs and services in addition to the Core Curriculum Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education and information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available from the school district business office.

Discussion: Mr. Moebus stated how he would like to identify \$70,000 of cuts to reduce the budgeted tax levy, other than the 5th grade teacher. He stated that he would like to review the Pay to Play options and reducing the school sponsored activities. President Scheibener also asked if other board members would like to review other reduction options; Vandenburg and Scott agreed to look at other reduction areas. Mr. Soucie restated how the board should allow the voters to be heard; he added that the process of cutting should be after the voters make a final decision. Mr. Moebus disagreed and stated that the BOE should go to the voters under cap. Other discussions reviewed the negatives of cutting courtesy busing and increasing the costs to parents to pay for activities. Mr. Geissler added that our professionals developed a fiscally responsible budget as a recommendation to the BOE. Mr. Somers briefly reviewed the tax levy impact and stated his support for the motion on the table.

VOTE:

AYES: McDowall, Moebus, Schneider, Scott, Somers, Soucie, Vandenburg, Geissler

NEYS: Scheibener

President Scheibener stated that her “no” vote is based on her strong feelings of giving taxpayer relief.

Public Comment:

Chris Regan stated how the HTEA will assist the BOE and Administration with the budget process.

Lisa Mickey stated how she would like to see a more detailed budget posted for public review

Executive Session

MOTION by Mr. Somers, seconded by Mr. Schneider to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. as per the following resolution:

WHEREAS the “Open Public Meetings Act” (Chapter 231 Laws of 1975) authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which specified topics are to be discussed under circumstances where the public consideration of such topics will clearly endanger the public or where the personal privacy or guaranteed rights of individuals whose activities or affairs are to be discussed would clearly in danger of unwarranted invasion; be it
RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Township of Holland now adjourns its public session to reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following: Negotiations

And be it further RESOLVED that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed in the minutes to be released at the next regular meeting of the Board, provided the Board's consideration of the subject matter has been closed, or that such matters that adversely affect the rights of prospective, current, or past public officers or personnel of the board, such individuals have in writing requested the disclosure of such discussion at a public meeting and provided such a public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION TO ENTER PUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION by Mr. McDowall, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the Board to enter Public Session at 9:25p.m.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Somers, seconded by Mrs. Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:26p.m.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Postma, RSBA/Board Secretary