

**BOGOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 8, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER by Mr. McHale, Board Vice President at 5:35 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Bogota Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Bogota Borough Hall, communicated by letter to The Record, filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Bogota and posted on the Bogota Board of Education website.

ROLL CALL by Mr. Brown, Interim Board Secretary.

Members Present: Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, Mr. McHale.

Members Absent: Mrs. VanBuren and Mr. Severino.

Also Present: Dr. Varcadipane, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Richard Brovarone, Esq. Board Attorney, Mr. Brown, Interim School Business SBA/BS and Elizabeth Ruiz, Assistant BS.

Superintendent's Comments

Power Point Presentation of 2017-2018 Budget.

HEARING OF CITIZENS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, a motion to open the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

A citizen requested a written copy of the 2017-2018 Budget.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, a motion to close the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by voice call vote.

Mr. McHale requested that Mr. Brown read Mrs. VanBuren's letter publically and will be made part of the minutes.

FINANCE

5-8-17-1 BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves the Final School District

Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year for submission to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Local Tax Levy</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | - \$ 22,116,785 | \$ 14,463,986 |
| Special Revenue Fund | - \$ 714,275 | N/A |
| Debt Service | - \$ 678,993 | \$ 633,775 |
| Total Budget | - \$ 23,510,053 | \$ 15,097,761 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves the tax levy for the General Fund \$ 14,463,986 for the 2017-2018 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, the Board approves a budget withdrawal from Capital Reserve-Excess costs and other capital projects for the 2017-2018 School Year Budget in the amount of \$364,168 for the following projects: Upgrades to the Bogota High School Biology Lab, Upgrades to the Weight Room, improvements to the Snack Stand and Field House and upgrades to the Bogota High School Auditorium Sound and Lighting. The total cost of the projects is \$364,168 which represents expenditures for construction elements of projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the commissioner as necessary to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore a motion and approval of agenda item **5-8-17-1**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, and Mr. McHale voted yes. Motion carried.

5-8-17-2 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Business Administrator, the Board amends the 2017-2018 Final School Budget as follows:

Use of \$250,000 from emergency reserve account to fund increases in Health Benefit Premiums and upgrades for security.
Reduction of \$250,000 in budgeted fund balance to offset use of Emergency Reserve Account funds.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Ms. Montgomery a motion and approval of agenda item **5-8-17-2**. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, and Mr. McHale voted yes. Motion carried.

5-8-17-3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the proposal from Everly Landscaping Services, Cliffside Park, NJ to do grass cutting and lawn maintenance at all three district schools and the Board of Education Office. The cost shall be \$350 per visit. Each visit shall be weekly and include a lawn cut, week whacking, edging and clearing the parking lot of debris. Trimming shall be done

once a year for an additional charge of \$650, which covers all district properties. These prices are valid through December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Granquist moved, seconded by Mrs. Lewis a motion and approval of agenda item 5-8-17-3. On a roll call vote Mrs. Carpenter, Ms. Granquist, Mrs. Kohles, Mrs. Lewis, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Moore, and Mr. McHale voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mrs. Carpenter, a motion to open the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

None at this time.

Mrs. Carpenter moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, a motion to close the meeting for public comments on agenda items only. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mrs. Lewis a motion for adjournment of the meeting at 6:07 pm. Motion unanimously approved by a voice call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Brown
Interim Board Secretary

Robert Brown

From: Kathy Van Buren
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Robert Brown
Cc: Charles Severino; Patrick McHale; Eileen Lewis; Lisa Kohles; Consuelo Carpenter; Amanda Montgomery; Jo-Ellen Granquist; Jim Moore; Vincent Varcadipane
Subject: Budget Presentation - May 8, 2017

Dear Mr. Brown, as Board Secretary I am requesting that this letter be read aloud during the budget presentation on May 8, 2017, and included in the minutes of the meeting as well.

When discussing the date for the public meeting, it was all rather last minute due to the submission date of the budget and the County and State deadlines. Since the meeting was scheduled when I could not attend - as well as Mr. Severino - it was stated that the budget would be presented to the Board at our April 25th meeting.

Since that did not happen, and I did not have the opportunity to publicly state my stand on this budget, I ask that it be noted that I am AGAINST the proposed budget with a 2% tax increase.

Dr. Varcadipane stated publicly that he prefers to always go to the max increase - 2% - even if it is not needed, that it can be returned to the taxpayers in the following year. Considering we will have an excess of \$1,000,000 in surplus this year, I feel it is unacceptable to take a penny more than necessary from our taxpayers. The Bogota Board of Education is not, and should not, be in the business of banking.

I feel it is time to get our spending under control. It is time to implement a Long Range Facility Plan and work within a taxpayer friendly budget.

Again, for the record, I am AGAINST the proposed budget as it stand with a 2% increase.

Thank You,

Kathy Van Buren
BOE Trustee