

READING SCHOOL DISTRICT June 28, 2013

Special Meeting
June 28, 2013

The special meeting of the Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Cooper, president. The meeting was held in the LGI Room at Reading Senior High School.

Pledge of Allegiance After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Cooper asked for a moment of silence.

Board Members Present Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch (by telephone), Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa (by telephone), Mr. Washington, Mr. Cinfici (arrived at 6:40 pm), Mr. Cooper, Mrs. Greth-Board Secretary

Administration Present Dr. Purcell, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Gokay, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Vaites, Mrs. Schlegel, Mrs. Vega, Ms. Boyd

Public Speaking Heather Glendening 2615 Prospect Street Reading Specialists
Debra Hart 628 S. 18-1/2 Street Budget
Joanne Fleig 507 Windsor Street Budget

Executive Session An Executive Session for Personnel was request by Mrs. McCree. The board went into Executive Session at 6:35 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:20 pm.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS NOTE: Budget Resolution 1 was not considered at this time. The board considered this resolution later in the meeting.

Curtailment of Pre-K Program Upon a motion made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, the board considered Resolution Budget-2.

BUDGET 2 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to request the approval of the PA Department of Education to curtail the Pre-K Program, resulting in the suspension/furlough of 12 professional employees and 12 paraprofessional/teaching assistant employees.

The vote was 6 yeas; 3 nays.

Yeas: Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Washington, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa

The motion carried.

Elimination of Intervention Specialist positions

Upon a motion made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, the board considered Resolution Budget-3.

BUDGET 3 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to request the approval of the PA Department of Education to alter the educational program through the elimination of the position of Intervention Specialist currently funded by federal funds, resulting in the suspension/furlough of four professional employees.

The vote was 7 yeas; 2 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta.

Nays: Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Cooper

The motion carried.

Elimination of ELA Tester position

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Acosta and seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, the board considered Resolution Budget-4.

BUDGET 4 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to request the approval of the PA Department of Education to alter the educational program through the elimination of one English Language Acquisition tester, funded by federal funds, resulting in the suspension/furlough of one professional employee.

The vote was 6 yeas; 3 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mr. Washington, Mr. Cinfici

Nays: Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cooper

The motion carried.

Elimination of Transition Coordinator position

Upon a motion made by Ms. Stroman and seconded by Mr. Heebner, the board considered Resolution Budget-5.

BUDGET 5 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to alter the Special Education Program by eliminating the position of Transition Coordinator, with such duties being assumed by other personnel within the Department of Special Education.

The vote was 8 yeas; 1 nay.

Yeas: Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mrs. Torres-Figueroa

The motion carried.

Transfer of Kindergarten classes held at the Cottage

Upon a motion made by Mr. Storch and seconded by Mrs. Acosta, the board considered Resolution Budget-6.

BUDGET 6 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the transfer of all Kindergarten classes currently held at the Cottage (Building 09) to appropriate elementary schools in that space will be available pursuant to the elimination of the Pre-Kindergarten program.

The vote was 5 yeas; 4 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Storch, Mr. Washington, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mrs. Acosta, Mrs. McCree

The motion carried.

Elimination of specific Late Bus Runs

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cinfici and seconded by Mrs. Acosta, the board considered Resolution Budget-7.

BUDGET 7 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the alteration of the District's Athletic Program through the curtailment of extracurricular after-school transportation through the elimination of the 4:00 p.m. late bus run and providing only a 6:00 p.m. late bus run in the Spring and Fall with 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. late bus runs provided in the Winter.

The vote was 9 yeas; 0 nays.

Yeas: Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Mr. Cooper

The motion carried.

Revision of 2013-14 School Calendar

Upon a motion made by Mr. Storch and seconded by Ms. Stroman, the board considered Resolution Budget-8.

BUDGET 8 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to revise the 2013-14 school calendar to provide for three of the professional development days required by the collective bargaining agreement with the Reading Education Association to be scheduled after August 1, 2014 but before September 1, 2014.

The vote was 5 yeas; 4 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Heebner, Ms. Stroman, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Cinfici, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch

The motion carried.

Elimination of positions as part of the 2013-14 budget process

Upon a motion made by Mr. Washington and seconded by Ms. Stroman, the board considered Resolution Budget-9.

BUDGET 9 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors eliminates the following positions as part of the 2013-14 budget process:

- Assistant Superintendent of Operations
- Confidential Secretary for Communications Department
- Director of Communications
- Director of Secondary Education
- Director of Student Services
- Confidential Secretary for Human Resources Department
- Five AFSCME positions, specifics to be determined
- One Certified School Nurse (through attrition)
- One RSHS Assistant Principal
- One RIHS Assistant Principal
- Eight and One-Half professional positions due to underutilized or low enrollment (through attrition)
- Two Electricians
- One Roofer

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- One Truck Driver
 - One Full-time Crew

The vote was 7 yeas; 2 nays.

Yeas: Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mr. Washington, Mr. Heebner

The motion carried.

Collaborative Facilitation Learning Model - THIS RESOLUTION WAS NOT APPROVED.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Stroman and seconded by Mrs. Acosta, the board considered Resolution Budget-1.

BUDGET 1 - BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to request the approval of the PA Department of Education to alter the educational program through the establishment of a Collaborative Facilitation Learning Model, which will encompass four quadrants anchored by the four middle schools along with the Reading Intermediate High School and Reading Senior High School, resulting in the need for fewer instructional coaches and reading specialists and the suspension/furlough of 21 professional positions and 7.5 paraprofessional positions.

The vote was 3 yeas; 6 nays.

Yeas: Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Mr. Washington

The motion failed.

FINANCE AND LEGAL RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion made by Ms. Stroman and seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, the board considered Resolution FIN-58.

Authorization of the use of certain proceeds of Bonds

FIN-58 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE READING SCHOOL DISTRICT, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING A PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDED WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2008 BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN PROCEEDS OF SUCH BONDS FOR THE REDUCTION OF

DEBT AND PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE DUE IN FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015; AND AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF OTHER NECESSARY ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, the Reading School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania (the "School District"), previously issued its General Obligation Bond, Series of 2008 (the "2008 Bonds") to fund a number of Capital Projects of the School District, including the development of a campus located in the area of the intersection of Eighth and Walnut Streets, Reading, Pennsylvania (the "Campus Project"); and

WHEREAS, the School District has heretofore determined that the Campus Project is not feasible and will not proceed and hereby abandons the Campus Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District has determined that proceeds of the 2008 Bonds, in an amount of not less than \$9,700,000 that were hereby identified as a partial source of funds to develop the Campus Project will not be needed for the Campus Project or any replacement capital project to be undertaken by the School District in the immediate future ; and

WHEREAS, the School District has determined to use such proceeds to reduce the outstanding amount of, and debt service obligations on, the 2008 Bonds, by the payment of certain principal and interest obligations thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By The Board of School Directors Of The School District As Follows:

Project Abandonment. The Board of School Directors hereby abandons the Campus Project and determines that an amount of proceeds of the 2008 Bonds of \$9,700,000 will not be needed for the Campus Project or any replacement capital project to be undertaken by the School District in the immediate future.

Application of 2008 Bond Proceeds. The Board of School Directors authorizes and directs the Administration of the School District to apply \$5,700,000 of the proceeds of the 2008 Bonds to reduce the outstanding

amount of, and debt service obligations on the 2008 Bonds and \$4,000,000 of the proceeds of the 2008 Bonds, to reduce the outstanding amount of, and debt service obligations on the 2008 Bonds by the payment of certain principal and interest obligations thereon in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, by the deposit thereof with the Paying Agent for such 2008 Bonds irrevocably designated for such purpose.

Further Action. The Administration of this School District is hereby authorized and directed to execute such further documents and do such further things as may be necessary or proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

Repeal of Inconsistent Resolutions. All prior resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of School Directors of the Reading School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania, this 28th day of June, 2013, in lawful session duly assembled.

The votes was 8 yeas; 1 nay.

Yeas: Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mr. Cinfici

The motion carried.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Stroman and seconded by Mrs. Acosta, the board considered Resolution FIN-59.

**Correction to the Fund
Classification of Swap
Money Market Account**

FIN-59 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE READING SCHOOL DISTRICT, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING A CORRECTION TO THE FUND CLASSIFICATION OF THE ACCOUNT IDENTIFIED AS THE SWAP MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT TO REMOVE IT FROM

THE 2001 BOND FUND AND PROPERLY ACCOUNT FOR IT AS A PART OF THE GENERAL FUND; AND AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF OTHER NECESSARY ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.

WHEREAS, a prior administration of the Reading School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania (the "School District"), previously created an account known as the Swap Money Market Account (the "Account") within the 2001 Bond Fund; and

WHEREAS, the School District has determined that the Account is properly a part of the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to correct the prior incorrect accounting treatment of the Account and reclassify it as an account within the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the School District recognizes that, under its Interest Rate Management Plan, an amount not less than \$1,000,000 is restricted to use in connection with settlement payments for its remaining interest rate swap with Wells Fargo Bank; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Reclassification of the Account. The Board of School Directors hereby authorizes and directs the Administration of this School District to reclassify the Account as an account within the General Fund and not an account within the 2001 Bond Fund.

Further Action. The Administration of this School District is hereby authorized and directed to execute such further documents and do such further things as may be necessary or proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution.

Repeal of Inconsistent Resolutions. All prior resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of School Directors of the Reading School District, Berks County, Pennsylvania, this 28th day of June, 2013, in lawful session duly assembled.

The vote was 9 yeas; 0 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Cooper

Nays: None.

The motion carried.

**Levy a tax of 17.39 mills
THIS RESOLUTION WAS
NOT APPROVED**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa and seconded by Ms. Stroman, the board considered Resolution FIN-66.

FIN-66 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors approves levying a tax of 17.39 mills per assessed valuation for 2013-14. This levy is an increase of 2.8 percent, the maximum permitted by the Act 1 Index. The tax levy for 2012-13 was 16.92 mills per assessed valuation.

The vote was 3 yeas; 6 nays.

Yeas: Ms. Stroman, Mr. Washington, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner

The motion failed.

**Keep millage at 16.92 for
2013-14**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. McCree and seconded by Mr. Cinfici, the board considered Resolution FIN-70.

FIN-70 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors approves levying a tax of 16.92 mills per assessed valuation for 2013-14, which represents no change in millage from 2012-13.

The vote was 6 yeas; 3 nays.

Yeas: Mr. Storch, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree

Nays: Ms. Stroman, Mr. Washington, Mr. Cooper

**Homestead/Farmstead
Property Tax Relief**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa and seconded by Mr. Heebner, the board considered Resolution FIN-69.

**FIN-69 HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
APPROVAL
RECOMMENDATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors of the Reading School District resolves on behalf of the District's approved homestead and farmstead owners, the Board accepts all property tax reduction allocations offered to the District pursuant to Act 1 and declares it will not seek to reject any such funds as permitted under Act 1, Chapter 9. In order to utilize, as directed in Act 1, the Certified Funds for property tax relief, the District resolves to set the maximum property tax reductions for its approved Homestead and Farmstead properties at **\$20,400.00** In the 2013-2014 school year, the real estate tax rate for the District is 17.39 mills. Using the District's millage rates, converting the maximum tax reduction for Homesteads yields a **\$354.76** Homestead exclusion and Farmstead exclusion. Where the assessor has approved a property as both a Homestead and Farmstead, the property will receive multiple exclusions, however, whether eligible for multiple exclusions or not, no property may exclude an amount from its assessment greater than the assessed value of the property. The exclusions will apply to tax notices issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills. Any property which loses its approval as a Homestead or Farmstead after the beginning of the District's budget year, shall be taxed from that point at the full assessed value without exclusion, and shall receive an interim tax bill reflecting the balance due.

The vote was 8 yeas; 1 nay.

Yeas: Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mr. Washington

The motion carried.

Adoption of General Fund Budget for 2013-14

Upon a motion made by Ms. Stroman and seconded by Mr. Washington, the board considered Resolution FIN-70.

FIN-70 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors adopts the General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 in the amount of \$213,606, 970.00 as presented.

The vote was 7 yeas; 2 nays

Yeas: Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Washington, Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Cinfici, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Ms. Stroman, Mr. Heebner

The motion carried.

Board Directive to Administration to take specific actions listed to balance the budget

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cinfici and seconded by Ms. Stroman, the board considered Resolution Budget-10.

BUDGET 10 – BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of School Directors directs the school district administration to take the following actions to balance the 2013-14 General Fund Budget:

Eliminate the following positions in the order stated below until the budget balances.

1. Instructional Coaches
 2. Assistant Director of Food Service
 3. 4 – Elementary Assistant Principals
 4. Assistant Director of Security after promotion to Director of Security
 5. Assistant Director of ELA
 6. Parent Academy Advisor
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was 7 yeas; 1 nay NOTE - Mrs. Acosta left prior to the vote on this resolution.

Yeas: Mr. Cinfici, Mr. Heebner, Mrs. McCree, Mr. Storch, Ms. Stroman, Mrs. Torres-Figueroa, Mr. Cooper

Nays: Mr. Washington

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

These are the Official Proceedings of the Reading School District Board of Directors Special Meeting held on June 28, 2013.

*Linda A. Greth
Secretary of the Board*

Date
