

Egg Harbor Township Committee
Special Meeting
Egg Harbor Township Community Center
5045 English Creek Avenue, Egg Harbor Township NJ 08234

Monday, May 17, 2010 –6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Mayor McCullough called the Special Meeting of the Township Committee to Order at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this Special Meeting was to meet with the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education and discuss the 2010-2011 Defeated School Board Budget and any other business which may become necessary. Anyone wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting was asked to complete the sign-in sheet first.

Township Clerk Tedesco read the Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

Roll Call: John Carman, Jr. - present
 Stanley Glassey - present
 Paul Hodson - present
 John Risley - present
 James J. McCullough - present

Also in attendance were Township Solicitor Marc Friedman, Township Administrator Peter Miller, Deputy Township Administrator Dale Goodreau and Township Clerk Eileen Tedesco.

President Galvin called the Special Meeting of the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Secretary/Business Administrator Kathy Bechtel read the Opening Statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Pete Castellano, Lou Della Barca, Jack Haines, Brian Murphy, Mary Anne Spiker, Barbara Szilagyi, Neil Anderson and James Galvin.

Also in attendance from the Board of Education were Superintendent Dr. Scott McCartney, Assistant Superintendent Kim Gruccio, Assistant Superintendent Donald Robertson, Board Secretary/Business Administrator Kateryna Bechtel, Assistant Business Administrator Kathleen Allen, Board Attorney William Donio and Board Attorney Amy Houck.

Mayor McCullough and President Galvin lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

Number	Title
217	Authorizing the Township Committee to convene into a Closed Executive Session to discuss matters which may involve litigation and/or personnel
Motion	Motion Hodson, second Carman to convene into Closed Executive Session

Comments	Also in attendance were the Board of Education President and Finance Committee as well as, Charles Bisciegia and Jack Feinberg from the Egg Harbor Township Budget Commission
Roll Call Vote	Carman-yes Glassey-yes Hodson-yes Risley-yes McCullough-yes

President Galvin declared the Board of Education Special Meeting in recess at 6:12 p.m.

Mayor McCullough reconvened the Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

President Galvin re-opened the Board of Education's Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor McCullough re-stated the purpose of this Special Meeting was to meet with the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education to discuss the 2010-2011 Defeated School Board Budget. Anyone wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting is to complete the sign-in sheet first.

Township Clerk Tedesco read the Video Broadcast/Television Statement.

Mayor McCullough said the Township Committee will be act upon Resolution 218 of 2010 next based upon review of related information and the recommendation of the Citizens Budget Review Commission.

2010-2011 Defeated School Board Budget

Number	Title
218	Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Egg Harbor determining and certifying amounts to be raised for school taxes for the 2010-11 school year
Motion	Motion Glassey, second Carman to approve Resolution 218 of 2010
Roll Call Vote	Carman-yes Glassey-yes Hodson-yes Risley-yes McCullough-yes

General Public Discussion

Patricia Sharpe, 15 Orchard Road, resident and teacher urged the Township Committee to vote yes for the proposal brought forward tonight by the School Board.

Mayor McCullough inquired what proposal Ms. Sharpe was referring to.

Ms. Sharpe said it was her understanding the Board would be submitting a proposal to minimize a tax increase following recent discussions with the association.

Mayor McCullough stated the Township Committee is recommending a less expensive health insurance to the Board of Education. He clarified the Governing Body is not cutting salaries.

Superintendent Dr. Scott McCartney said that following recent discussions between the principals, superintendents and association, concepts have been discussed with Township Committee, but no formal proposal has been made.

Mayor McCullough said Dr. McCartney indicated if the Board of Education does not switch to the recommended health care coverage, an additional thirty teaching positions will be eliminated as well as, more programs.

Harry Sacks, 229 Gunpowder Road asked the Board of Education if they would accept or challenge the Township Committee's recommendation.

President Galvin replied the Board would be discussing the recommendations.

Mayor McCullough asked Mr. Sacks what were his concerns with changing to a health plan that would cost r substantially less for the same benefits.

Mr. Sacks said he does not necessarily have an issue with changing health benefits, but not in addition to taking furlough days and a pay freeze.

Mayor McCullough clarified Resolution 218 of 2010 only addresses changing health care providers to the State Health Benefits plan. The Township Committee is asking the Board of Education to consider a recommendation of pay freezes and furlough days similar to what municipal employees have recently done.

Mr. Sacks thanked Mayor McCullough for the clarification.

Kathy Waszen, Egg Harbor Township Teachers Association President asked if the School Board proposed a tax cent increase to Township Committee and inquired about the Township Committee's position on pay freezes and furlough days.

Mayor McCullough said the School Board recommended a reduction from 13.5 cents to 6 cents. The Mayor referred to Resolution 218 and stated the Township Committee is recommending pay freezes and furlough days, but those decisions are ultimately up to the Teachers Association and the Board of Education.

Kathy Waszen said the union feels it is impossible to get back to a zero tax increase.

Mayor McCullough asked if the association is opposed to changing their health care coverage. Mrs. Waszen replied that is a non-issue which is covered in their proposal and the members are anxious to vote.

Superintendent McCartney advised the proposal has been given to the Board of Education for consideration.

Mrs. Waszen inquired about the time line associated with this budget. Mrs. Bechtel replied the Township Committee needed to adopt their recommendations by May 19, 2010. With their approval of Resolution 218 of 2010 tonight the School Board has ten days to respond.

Mayor McCullough stated both the School Board and the Township are facing tough economic times. Municipal employees have faced lay-offs, mandatory furlough days and pay freezes. He asked when the association would be voting on their proposal.

Mrs. Waszen said she hopes the vote will occur soon and that it will be a package vote.

Superintendent McCartney said he does not wish to see anyone laid-off. Dr. McCartney said the School Board is recommending balanced cuts of one-third for teachers and administration staff and four percent to support staff.

Lori House, Zion Road inquired about the Township tax rate.

Mayor McCullough explained the Township is under the same four percent budget CAP as the Board of Education. The municipal budget must be introduced by May 26, 2010 and we are \$1.3 million of the tax rate. The current tax rate is sixteen cents and it needs to be under twelve cents.

Ms. House felt the Township could make additional reductions in their budget.

Mayor McCullough advised the Township is down fifty-five employees from the prior year and ten additional

lay-off notices have been sent out.

Gary Shultz, long-time resident and teacher said State Government cuts are causing a burden on local and school budgets. He felt current students need to be offered the same opportunities as students in the past. . Mr. Shultz said the Collective Bargaining Unit process needs to be respected and he asked the School Board to concentrate on job restoration.

John Carlson, 157 Alder Avenue took exception with comments made earlier by Dr. McCartney regarding balanced budget cuts. He told Township Committee their demand for cuts will cause teachers to lose jobs.

Superintendent McCartney said his earlier comment to Mr. Carlson was for him to speak into the mic and he apologized for any misunderstanding. Dr. McCartney also said he is willing to work with the Association, but he is also committed to protecting the students and programs too.

Mr. Carlson referred to Dr. McCartney's strategy of one-third which Dr. McCartney clarified may not save one hundred percent of jobs but, felt was the best way to protect the majority of those concerned.

Ivalesse Malcum, resident, parent and teacher asked that when concessions are considered that the importance of Gifted and Talented Programs be remembered for the benefit of the students.

Motion Glassey, second Hodson to close the public discussion, Vote: all voted, yes

President Galvin stated the School Board will be meeting tomorrow evening and will evaluate tonight's comments in conjunction with Resolution 218 of 2010 approved earlier this evening by Township Committee. President Galvin encouraged the public to attend.

Mayor McCullough thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged the teachers to support changing their health care coverage to the State Health Benefits plan.

Adjournment

Motion Anderson, second Haines for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting 8:06 p.m. All voted, yes.

Motion Glassey, second Carman to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:06 p.m. All voted, yes.

JAMES J. MCCULLOUGH, MAYOR

EILEEN M. TEDESCO, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

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MINUTES APPROVED AT
MEETING OF JULY 14, 2010