

Holmdel Township Public Schools
Budget & Finance Committee
2010-11 Annual Report
April 27, 2011

Our work accomplished during the 2010-11 year included:

1. Oversaw 2011-12 Budget preparation process. Recommended finalized budget supported by a 0% property tax levy increase.
2. Our plans for the year included seeking cost savings or revenues from:
 - A. Transportation – TAS study resulted in recommendation to outsource remaining 40% of routes handled in-house. Subscription courtesy busing was also discussed.
 - B. Overtime – handled by the Buildings & Grounds Committee.
 - C. Telephone/communications – Mr. Gattini met with the committee to discuss our current situation. While we aren't there yet, cloud computing is the ultimate goal as pricing and capability come into line with district needs.
 - D. Health insurance – obtained our “experience” data. Did not attract bids from carriers outside the State Health Benefits Plan because our experience data wasn't as favorable as private companies would like to see.
 - E. Pay-to-participate – reviewed policies in place in other districts as well as our costs for clubs and sports. Discussed instituting fees for HHS and Satz student participation in clubs and athletics in committee and with the full Board in public session. Response was mixed based on concern for limiting student involvement in sports and clubs. Because we were able to formulate a prudent budget for 2011-12 without these funds, we did not recommend adopting such fees at present. They remain a future possibility.
3. Reviewed and recommended proposed 2010-11 budget cuts in response to the failed April 2010 budget election.
4. Reviewed food service financial results for 2009-10, which produced a \$25K surplus, modestly higher than projected. The food service contract will be rebid eff. the 2011-12 school year.
5. Reviewed and recommended creating a proposed up to \$1 million maintenance reserve for health/safety-related capital projects from unexpended 2009-10 budget year funds. Reserve has funded VS brickface repair, VS roof repairs and the HHS-Satz repaving project bid jointly with the Township.
6. In line with changes in Public School Contracts law, recommended increasing our bid threshold from \$29K to \$36K.
7. Reviewed Property/Casualty and Worker's Comp insurance coverage and rates.

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8. Reviewed possibility of accepting tuition-paying regular education students, with tuition set at our DOE cost per pupil. Studied what other districts are doing. Recommended instituting a pilot program for staff children. Began full Board discussion. Administration will survey staff to see if there is interest in a pilot program of accepting staff children at a reduced tuition cost.
9. In response to rising unemployment insurance costs, reviewed and recommended retaining for one year an unemployment consultant that guaranteed savings of the least the cost of their services.
10. Reviewed and recommended administration's recommendation that we not participate in the Inter-District Public School Choice Program.
11. Reviewed 2009-10 audit results. There were no management letter comments to be addressed.
12. Reviewed and recommended invitation to join the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) Competitive Pricing System.
13. Reviewed the degree to which we subsidize facility use by local recreational groups and found fees cover only 10% of actual costs. Recommended B&G take this budgetary impact into account when setting fees for 2011-12.
14. Recommended that we apply for a \$12,255 safety grant from our property insurer through the NJSBAIG 2011 Safety Grant Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Garrity
Chair