

Budget & Finance Committee Notes
Monday, February 11, 2008

Attending: Board Members Garrity, Strickland and Wetmore; Administrators Duncan, Mikos and Petrizzo. Absent: Burke

2008-09 Budget: We have input all our data into the state's budget software, and found no "fatal errors." Our waiver request amounts have been double checked and are accurate.

The new law is a two-edged sword. While we're now eligible for cap waivers for a wider variety of cost increases, waivers are granted only at the discretion of the Executive County Superintendent. The state has created a "waiver checklist" of steps districts must take before their waiver requests will be considered. The list includes, e.g., not budgeting for the possibility of an out-of-district placement arising during the school year, and budgeting all replacements for departing or retiring teachers at 1BA. The committee will receive the full checklist once it's completed. Barbara and Michael will meet with the county superintendent on 2/15 to present our draft budget and waiver requests. We don't know how soon we will receive her rulings.

New information received on 2/8 says we must have our first budget reading by 2/22, not 2/28 as previously indicated. We have requested approval to do this at our regular meeting on 2/27. If permission is denied, we will need a special meeting on 2/20.

Budget line items continue to be modified (vs. last year) to more accurately reflect needs and actual spending patterns. This seems to have reduced the number of line item transfers.

Request for Proposal – Sponsorship Promoter Services: We discussed questions re the RFP. A draft will be sent home to the full Board in the Friday packet. Michael will find out what procedures Toms River uses to determine acceptable ads, locations, advertisers, etc. The Committee recommends that the full Board discuss acceptable ad locations at the March work session.

Other Matters: We discussed the need for personal contact as part of GOTV efforts, and recommended emphasis on the families of our youngest students if volunteers are limited. We will review last year's list of things learned about the budget election process as we plan for this year's vote.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 25, 2008 at 4:15 PM in the Board Office

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Garrity