

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting/Adoption of 2012/2013 Budget  
March 29, 2012 at 7:30 PM  
Clinton Township Middle School Auditorium**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Dincuff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLICATION  
OF NOTICE:**

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided through the public notice on March 27, 2012:

- a. Faxing to four newspapers designated by the Board – Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Review, Star-Ledger and Express Times
- b. Posting on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Office and in each Clinton Township School
- c. Filing with the Clerk of Clinton Township

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

*Board Members:*

Jim Dincuff, President	Kevin Maloy
Michelle Cresti, Vice President	Rachel McLaughlin
Marc Freda	Kevin Sturges
Maria Grant	Michelle Sullivan
Mark Kaplan	

**Present:**

*District Administrators:*

Mr. Kevin J. Carroll, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Anthony Del Sordi, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE:**

President Dincuff led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Mr. Dincuff announced that this meeting was called because the Executive County Superintendent had contacted him and indicated that the final budget must be adopted and delivered to him no later than Friday, March 30, 2012.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clinton Township Board of Education hereby agrees to conduct an Emergency meeting for the purpose of adopting the school district budget for the 2012-2013 in accordance with 18A:22-10 and 18A:22-32, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that notice of the meeting was sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Review, Star-Ledger and Express Times and posted on the District Website, the main bulletin board in the Administration Office and in each Clinton Township School and sent to the Clerk of Clinton Township on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the agenda for the emergency meeting will be limited to a discussion and adoption of the 2012-13 School Budget, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the meeting was necessary to meet the legal requirements of the State of New Jersey and the Department of Education.

Motion by K. Maloy; seconded by M. Kaplan. The resolution was **ADOPTED** by the full membership of the Board.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEM ONLY**

The meeting was opened to the public for comment at 7:40 p.m.

Several members of the public spoke in opposition to the current proposal and questioned how the additional State aid was spent. There were also objections that the additional aid received in July was not being returned to the taxpayers. The public also raised concerns about the current School Choice program and the associated costs and impact on class size.

The meeting was closed to public comment at 8:55 p.m.

Board members discussed several items within the 2012/13 budget options for reducing several line items. In addition, there was a discussion on reducing the parent contribution for participation in clubs and sports programs.

#### **FACILITIES/FINANCE:**

**Mark Kaplan – Chair; Marc Freda, Kevin Maloy & Kevin Sturges**  
**Action Item 12-FF-173**

#### **Action 12-FF-173:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the following resolution approving the 2012/2013 Budget.

**WHEREAS**, the 2012/2013 budget includes sufficient funds to implement the proposed planning process as described in this district's Annual Report pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 7A -11 and to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Clinton Township Board of Education approves the 2012/2013 budget in the amount of \$28,805,518 and authorizes its submission to the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools for approval as follows:

Current Expense	\$25,797,873
Capital Outlay	\$ 163,725
Capital Reserve Fund – Interest Deposit	\$ 10
Special Schools	\$ <u>106,876</u>
Total General Fund	<u>\$26,068,484</u>
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 566,066
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 2,170,968</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$28,805,518</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the General Fund tax levy in the amount of \$22,281,013.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education acknowledges that the 2012/2013 budget as described above includes a debt service tax levy in the amount of \$2,170,882;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in accordance with Board of Education Policy No. 6471, the district budgeted in the 2011/2012 budget \$50,000 for travel expenses. As of February 1, 2012 the district has spent \$3,280 for travel expenses. The maximum travel allowance for the 2012/2013 school year shall be established at \$50,000, which includes a maximum per staff member regular business travel threshold of \$1,500.

Motion by M. Kaplan; seconded by K. Maloy to adopt the resolution as presented in the agenda. Prior to the vote Mr. Freda asked Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Maloy if he would consider amending their motion to include an additional reduction of \$147,000 in the tax levy. Both Board members agreed to the amendment

#### **Action 12-FF-174**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves the General Fund tax levy for the 2012/13 school year in the amount of \$22,134,013.

Motion by M. Kaplan; seconded by K. Maloy. On a roll call vote, the motion **FAILED** by a vote as follows: ayes, 2 (Sullivan, Freda); nays, 7.

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Motion by M. Kaplan; seconded by K. Maloy to adopt the resolution as originally presented in the agenda. On a roll call vote, the motion was **ADOPTED** as follows: ayes, 7; nays, 2 (Sullivan, Freda)

President Dincuff read a statement in public raising concerns over Board member confidentiality. He indicated that there have been instances when issues discussed in Executive Session have appeared online. The statement also indicated that Board members may have been acting independently of the Board and in collusion with an unelected member of the community to obtain assistance from the Department of Education in budget preparation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*Resolved by the Board of Education of Clinton Township as per Chapter 231, P.L.1975:*

- a. That it is hereby determined that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters legally rendered confidential.*
- b. The matter discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting.*
- c. The length of the meeting is thought to be approximately forty-five (45) minutes.*
- d. Action will not be taken upon return.*

*Motion by M. Kaplan; seconded by K. Sturges. The motion on the resolution was **ADOPTED** by the full membership of the Board at 10:12 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Action 12-AJ-027:**

***BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education adjourns this meeting at 10:45 pm. Motion by R. McLaughlin; seconded by K. Maloy. The resolution was **ADOPTED** by the full membership of the Board.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Anthony Del Sordi  
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Minutes Prepared: 4/10/12

Board of Education Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank "Jim" Dincuff  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date