

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board of Education Town Hall Meeting &
Public Hearing on Tentative School District Budget for 2021-2022 School Year
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
6:00 p.m. - (Live Stream Meeting)
Minutes

I. PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting was given to all Board Members and Associates in notices dated **03/01/2021**. Adequate and electronic notice of this Public Meeting has been provided specifying the time, place, and manner in which this meeting is being conducted. It was advertised in the Courier Post, posted in all schools, the Administration Office, the Municipal Building, the Library, Bud Duble Center, Edgewood Acres, Elm Town, and the Winslow Township Post Offices.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The *Mission* of the Winslow Township School District, a large diverse and growing community, is to educate all students to become independent, life-long learners, critical thinkers and caring and confident members of their community. The District, in partnership with the community, and in a climate of cooperation and mutual respect, will provide an academic environment which values excellence and diversity, encourages students to strive for personal excellence, and assists them in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to contribute positively to a rapidly changing world.

III. ROLL CALL

Present	Larry Blake	Cynthia Moore
	Lorraine Dredden	John M. Shaw, Jr.
	Rita Martin	Kelly Thomas
	Abena McClendon	Julie Peterson, Vice President
		Cheryl Pitts, President

Also Present: H. Major Poteat, Ed.D., Superintendent
Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. 2020-2021 DISTRICT GOALS

(Ms. McClendon)

1. Student Achievement – Continue to implement best practices for delivering instruction to students utilizing all available and appropriate instructional modes. This shall include:
 - a. Ensuring articulation at all grade levels throughout the district
 - b. Focus on classroom instruction at all grade levels
 - c. Ensuring all students have equal access to equipment and resources needed to facilitate and promote student learning in any setting
 - d. Evaluation and updating all district programs
 - e. Accountability of all district staff
2. Continue to foster a positive school environment that is conducive to teaching and learning:
 - a. Focus on building relationships among staff that will result in increased learning and more effective instruction
 - b. Promote creative instruction (training and retraining)
 - c. Emphasis on collaboration with all district stakeholders
 - d. Promote cultural competence throughout district
 - e. Teacher to student relationships
 - f. Student to student relationships

- 3. Market our strengths and achievements to all stakeholders to increase capacity for greater parent/caregiver/community support.
 - a. Continue with our public relations/marketing plan
 - b. Continue to work with the various advisory committees in the district
 - c. Examine communication methods utilized by district

VI. AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS

- 1. 2021-2022 Tentative Budget Presentation – Ms. Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Bus. Adm./Board Secretary

Ms. Tyra McCoy-Boyle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, presented the 2021-2022 proposed District budget. Time was allotted for questions and comments from the Board and audience.

VII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve A. as recommended by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

A. THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Tentative School District Budget (2021-2022)

Approve the adoption of the Tentative 2021-2022 School District Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent by March 22, 2021 as follows:

Fund	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$109,288,527	\$51,577,965
Special Revenue Fund	4,833,970	---
Total Budget	\$114,122,497	\$51,577,965
Less Transfer From General to Special Revenue	(695,261)	---
Total Budget-Net of Transfers	\$113,427,236	\$51,577,965

- 2. Statements of Purpose

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$184,500.00 for the proposed replacement of Circulation Pumps at Schools 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Middle School. The total cost of this project is \$184,500.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$2,122,722.00 for the proposed replacement of Security Systems at the Middle School and High School. The total cost of this project is \$2,122,722.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$2,755,512.00 for the proposed replacement of the Fire Alarm Systems at Schools 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. The total cost of this project is \$2,755,512.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$225,000.00 for the proposed installation and upgrade to the DDC Controls and Air Handlers at School 6. The total cost of this project is \$225,000.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$307,875.00 for the proposed painting of the Middle School exterior and the interior trim at the High School. The total cost of this project is \$307,875.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$801,320.00 for the proposed parking lot improvements and resurfacing at the Administration Building and the Middle School. The total cost of this project is \$801,320.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Capital Reserve Statement of Purpose

Included in line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve – Excess Costs and Other Capital Projects, is \$569,457.00 for the proposed resurfacing of the High School Tennis Courts. The total cost of this project is \$569,457.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facility efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

3. Maximum Threshold – Travel and Workshops

Approve the maximum threshold for district travel and workshops for the 2021-2022 school year in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00. The threshold includes all funds. The maximum threshold established for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was \$70,000.00. Expenditures to date equal \$2,847.00.

4. Authorization to Amend the Long Range Facilities Plan

Authorize LAN Associates, the District appointed Architects, to amend the District's approved Long Rang Facilities Plan to include the following projects:

- Replace circulation pumps at Schools #1, #2, #3, #4, and the Middle School
- Replace the Security System (Burglar Alarm) at the Middle School
- Replace the Security System (Burglar Alarm) at the High School
- Replace Fire Alarms at Schools #1, #2, #3, #5, and #6
- Replace DDC Controls and Air Handlers at School #6
- Paint the exterior of the Middle School
- Paint the interior trim at the High School
- Provide Parking Lot improvements at the Administration Building
- Resurface the Parking Lot (Phase 1) at the Middle School
- Resurface the Tennis Courts at the High School

Roll Call:			
Mr. Blake	Yes	Ms. Moore	Yes
Ms. Dredden	Yes	Mr. Shaw	Yes
Ms. Martin	Yes	Ms. Thomas	Yes
Ms. McClendon	Yes	Ms. Peterson	Yes
		Ms. Pitts	Yes
Motion Carried			

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Time Limited)

A motion was made by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to open the meeting for Public Comments at 6:30 p.m.

The Winslow Township Board of Education highly values the input of citizens in making important decisions that affect the children of our community. We also believe in the rights of citizens to observe Board Meetings. To ensure that all of our citizens have the opportunity to attend School Board Meetings and offer comment, and to ensure that the Board can conduct the important business of the District, we ask that speakers follow the guidelines for making public comments.

Notation of Public Comments on Agenda Items – The Board President or Board Secretary will recognize those individuals in the audience who wish to make comment.

Please respect the following procedures:

1. All members of the public attending School Board Meetings must treat each other and the Board with respect.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Please limit your comments to **four minutes**.
4. Submit your questions to the Board of Education with your name, address and telephone number where you can be contacted. Your questions will be answered within a reasonable time.
5. Individuals offering citizen comment are not permitted to make personal attacks on any District employee, Board Member, other testifier or member of the public.

Voice Vote: All in favor

IX. TOWN HALL MEETING

Public Forum for Open Conversation - Township of Winslow residents, parents, guardians, caregivers, school district staff, and current and former students, are invited to join the Board of Education for this open conversation.

The purpose of this forum is to provide our district stakeholders with an extended opportunity to present feedback to the Board on the reopening of school on March 1, 2021, and any questions or concerns you may have about the current status of our schools.

The Board of Education is committed to listening to all feedback and taking action as appropriate.

Since the event was advertised as a public meeting and a quorum of the Board is present, we are required by law to conduct a Public Portion. Since this Virtual Town Hall is essentially a public forum, the entire meeting shall constitute a public portion for purposes of compliance with the law.

On behalf of the Marketing Committee Ms. McClendon will be conducting the remainder of the Town Hall Meeting. An Agenda has been distributed to the Board Members to follow for the evening, with the opportunity for public questions, comments, and responses towards the end of the meeting with Dr. Poteat.

Icebreakers – Breakout rooms with an Icebreaker game of Kahoot

Board Committee Chairpersons

Each Board Committee Chair took five minutes to explain the purpose of their committee or to share exciting or new information about their Committee.

Athletic Committee – Mr. Shaw – Mr. Shaw explained the Athletic Committee works with the Athletic Departments to make sure the community is up to date on all of the activities and sports, especially how Covid-19 could impact the students and sports. The Athletic Committee is also active in promoting their student athletes.

Citizens Advisory Committee – Ms. Martin – Ms. Martin explained the Citizens Advisory Committee (C.A.C.) believes in the active involvement and participation of the Winslow Township community, and advancing the philosophy, mission, and goals of the District. The C.A.C. Adhoc Committee, which is comprised of members of the community, was formed by the Board for the purpose of seeking advice, recommendations, and providing widespread involvement in issues affecting the District.

Education Committee – Ms. Peterson – Ms. Peterson shared the expertise of each Education Committee Member, and how each member specially contributes positivity to the community. She also shared the exciting news that Winslow Township is expecting about one-third of students to attend hybrid learning in the fourth marking period. Ms. Peterson also shared the different ways the teachers and staff welcomed the students back into the schools.

Equity Equality Committee – Mr. Blake – The Equity Equality Committee is newly formed as of this school year. The Committee concerns itself with matters of fair treatment relating to diversity, equity and inclusion. Mr. Blake has been working closely with Ms. Theresa Lewis, our NJSBA Representative, to take trainings that are similar to her presentation at the last Board meeting, explaining what a Board Member is.

Operations Committee – Ms. Dredden – Ms. Dredden shared that the Operations Committee reviews the areas of finance, maintenance, transportation, food service, and capital projects. She shared specifics on each section the Committee oversees and makes recommendations on behalf of.

Policy Committee – Ms. Pitts – The Policy Committee reviews and makes recommendations on the policies that come into the District from the New Jersey Department of Education and Federal Government. The Committee implements the mandated policies and reviews the recommended policies. They bring the policies to the Board, where the public has the opportunity to see the policy, and it can be implemented. The policies are accessible on the District website, which Ms. McClendon shared via her screen for the audience to see.

Marketing Committee – Ms. McClendon – Ms. McClendon would like to introduce the Marketing Committee Team: Ms. Cynthia Moore, Mr. Larry Blake, Dr. Poteat, and Ms. McClendon. She shared that the Team has been doing a fantastic job!

Negotiations Committee – Ms. Pitts and Ms. Peterson – Ms. Pitts briefly introduced the Negotiations Committee and Ms. Peterson shared it consists of herself, Ms. Dredden and Ms. Martin. Ms. Pitts confirmed it's headed by our Solicitor, Mr. Howard Long, who handles the negotiations with the contracts for the employees.

With all of this great information Ms. Pitts hopes the public has a good view of exactly who the Board consists of and what they do. She explained that they don't only handle District business at the regular Board Meetings, but also meet several times a month for their various Board Committee Meetings.

Ms. McClendon shared that we have a Board Member that is part of the Legislative Committee Team and would like to introduce him: Mr. John Shaw. This exciting and new development puts Winslow Township on the map! Mr. Shaw shared that on March 6, 2021 he was officially appointed as a Legislative District 4 New Jersey School Boards Association member. This allows him the voting privilege to advocate on behalf of Winslow Township and the New Jersey State School Board. He shared there are some big things that are currently in committee or are getting ready to go to legislation. He said the New Jersey School Boards are advocating for new HIV laws, that there's a student gap legislation coming through in the next few months, the American Rescue Plan was passed, and there's a big financial package. If there's anyone that's interested in more information they can email Mr. Shaw and he'll provide information about the bills.

Ms. McClendon and Mr. Shaw also shared that over the last few weeks they have had the honor of reviewing and going through the Camden County Teacher of the Year submissions. This has been an extreme honor. They know Winslow Township has some amazing teachers and wants to be sure the community nominates more teachers for next year.

Questions and Answers with Dr. Poteat

Ms. McClendon shared some general rules for the Question and Answer section. **Ms. Moore** will help and support **Dr. Poteat**. If someone has something to ask or share please use the “raise hand” feature so **Ms. Moore** can address you. When you’ve been addressed please lower your hand if you don’t have any further comments or questions. Don’t utilize the chat on **WebEx**, as it’s not being monitored. If questions are called in via phone **Ms. Boyle** can let **Ms. Moore** know so they can be addressed.

Chisa would like to give a shout out to **Ms. Nwanguma**. **Ms. Nwanguma** said she would follow up with **Chisa** immediately and did. **Chisa** missed the registration deadline for her children to attend hybrid and **Ms. Nwanguma** followed up with **Chisa** the same day and had someone assist her.

Dr. Poteat shared with the community that hybrid sign-ups are now available through Friday, March 26, 2021 at 4:00 pm. The numbers **Ms. Peterson** shared earlier about fourth marking period estimates is not a final count. Please go to the school’s website that your child will attend if you want to register them.

Sonia Inman would like to know about **Dr. Poteat**’s previous recommendation about utilizing the money from the American Rescue Plan for air conditioning. She’d like to know if it were approved, how it would impact the budget that was proposed tonight and how it would impact the rest of the money the government is giving towards the other services.

Dr. Poteat responded that he’d like to be clear that his recommendation was only that and that a decision has not been made on those monies. He also explained that those monies are not part of the budget presented tonight. The funding from the American Rescue Plan is only an estimate and the District hasn’t received the funding yet. It cannot be part of the proposed budget because it’s not been received. The same question was asked on Monday and **Dr. Poteat** came prepared to answer it tonight so the community has a clear understanding of how Congressman **Norcross** said the money is to be used. The estimated funding the District will receive is \$11.6 million, with twenty percent intended to be used to address and remediate learning loss among students. The remaining funds can be used for the following: upgrading and repairing vent systems, implementing social distancing, purchasing PPE, and investing in support staff to care for students’ wellbeing. We anticipate there is an opportunity to use a portion of the funding towards the air conditioning but the other portion will be used to enhance the educational programs and no decision has been made at this time.

Dr. Poteat also shared that if a child is in the hybrid program right now they do not need to register again for the fourth marking period. The third marking period ends April 14, 2021 or April 15, 2021 and we are not going to start the fourth marking period hybrid learning for new hybrid students until the following Monday.

Erica Wallace explained she has already physically informed the teachers that her child will be hybrid since she couldn't fill the form out online, and wants to know if she still needs to fill out the form. Dr. Poteat replied that she does still need to fill out the form because we need confirmation in the system. Ms. Wallace also wanted to confirm the previously mentioned four days per week for children with IEP or special services. When she spoke with the school she was told her daughter would only be attending two days per week. Ms. Wallace wanted to know if this was a mistake. Dr. Poteat explained it wasn't a mistake, that four-day attendance was only for the students with the highest need, not all children with special needs or with IEP.

Megan Byer said her children are already hybrid and would like to add transportation services for the fourth marking period. Dr. Poteat advised her to contact the school, who will connect her with the Transportation Department, as soon as possible to make those arrangements.

Dr. Poteat made the additional statement that we should continue to be mindful that we are still in a pandemic in the State of New Jersey. We need to make sure that everyone is still vigilant and does what's needed to stay safe. More people in New Jersey have been vaccinated than ever before, about 3.1 million with a target of 4.7 million, but to not let your guard down. Continue to wear masks and social distance. A new variant arrived in New Jersey, allegedly more effective at spreading than previous variants. We are going to do everything we can to keep students and staff safe in the schools.

Tina Marshall has a question regarding 8th Grade activities. Her daughter is fully remote and they've not heard anything about planned activities. Dr. Poteat said he cannot speak definitively but Ms. Nwanguma and her staff have been looking at options for the 8th Grade class. Ms. Nwanguma should be sending out information very soon. All parents may also contact the school to find out what is being planned. Dr. Poteat last heard mention about a virtual ceremony for their promotional exercise.

Ms. McClendon understands we are preparing for a prom for the seniors but also wants to know if there are stipulations and policies about who can attend other than members of the senior class. She'd like to know if the number of attendants will change as we get closer to the prom date. Dr. Poteat explained that capacity is currently the number one concern, at 150 guests. This amount may only allow for the seniors to attend. He explained we look at all of the statistics and we can only make changes as updates are provided. The prom date is getting closer and at some point we will have to make a decision. We're hopeful the CDC guidelines will allow students to bring partners of their choosing, but it's a wait and see. Safety is first and foremost.

Ms. Moore would like to know if any parents have feedback about how hybrid learning is going so far. Dr. Poteat explained it varies from building to building, that each school has different issues. He shared positively that overall things are going much better than they have been and we will continue to improve. We're always better today than we were yesterday.

Ms. Pitts shared that it's an interesting statistic that in February the projected number of students returning for hybrid learning was around 1,300. Now, Ms. Peterson said we're already projecting 1,600. This statistic speaks to how parents are feeling. Dr. Poteat shared that we had an obligation from the State to offer hybrid face-to-face learning and many parents were relieved.

Erica Wallace would like to know if the free lunch program will continue or if she should start packing her children's lunches. Dr. Poteat explained that all children eat free and no child needs to bring lunch to school unless the parent wants them to have something specific. Ms. Wallace also wanted to share a parents' perspective about students returning to hybrid learning. She explained that both of her children remained fully remote and when students returned for hybrid it became extremely difficult because their schedules completely changed. Dr. Poteat encouraged her to reach out to the school principals to find out why the schedules changed so drastically.

Sonia Inman wanted to know if there's been any conversations about the students that may have lost some of their learning progress and if there are any programs being discussed that will supplement this learning loss. Dr. Poteat replied that we're always assessing and reassessing students. He explained we anticipate there is going to be a need for some type of supplemental program. Those conversations are being held but we've not decided on anything specific.

Cindy Skurnick shared her comment about the possible reason for changed schedules for remote students. She believes it's because of the lunch breaks and cleaning in the cafeteria. Dr. Poteat does not know for certain but agrees that it could be the reason for a change in schedules.

Remarks/Closing

Ms. McClendon would like to thank the community for tuning in and participating in the Town Hall. She also gives thanks to the Marketing Committee and the Technology Team.

X. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion was made Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to close the meeting for Public Comments at 8:19 p.m.

Voice Vote: All in favor

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra McCoy-Boyle
Business Administrator/Board Secretary