

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

**Completed March 8, 2013**  
**Convened at 5:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Board Vice President Sasa Montaña called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice President Montaña led the salute to the flag.

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Denise Millington  
Sasa Olessi Montaña  
Jason Redd  
Jane Rosenbaum – departed at 6:30 p.m.  
Nicola Tatum  
Mary Taylor-Hayes  
Justine Torres – arrived 6:17 p.m.  
Gerald Truehart II – arrived 5:36 p.m.

**Excused Absent:**

Toby Sanders

**Superintendent of Schools** – Francisco Durán - Present

**Business Administrator/Board Secretary** – Jayne Howard - Present

**New Jersey Sunshine Law** - Read by Board President Sanders

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on.

On the rules of this act, the Trenton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time and place, therefore posted in the Central Services Building, 108 North Clinton Avenue, City Clerk's Office, City Hall and the Times. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Formal action will take place at this meeting.

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

**Adoption Of Agenda**

Vice President Montaño asked to Board to consider revising tonight’s agenda to allow for Public Participation prior to adjourning to Executive Session.

Motion was made by Ms. Tatum and seconded by Ms. Taylor-Hayes to amend the agenda to allow for Public Participation prior to Executive Session. The motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Denise Millington	X		
Sasa Olessi Montaño	X		
Jason Redd	X		
Jane Rosenbaum	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		
Mary Taylor-Hayes	X		
Justine Torres		not present for vote	
Gerald Truehart II		not present for vote	
Toby Sanders		absent	

Motion was made by Ms. Millington and seconded by Ms. Taylor-Hayes to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Denise Millington	X		
Sasa Olessi Montaño	X		
Jason Redd	X		
Jane Rosenbaum	X		
Nicola Tatum	X		
Mary Taylor-Hayes	X		
Justine Torres		not present for vote	
Gerald Truehart II		not present for vote	
Toby Sanders		absent	

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur, President of the Trenton Education Association (TEA), expressed TEA’s position relative to the budget process. She felt the process is not inclusive of teachers and the School Leadership Teams (SLT). She stated that SLTs serve as part of the budget committee and, in the process, work together. Ms. Johnson-Lafleur stated that the process of creating school budgets should be collaborative. She said that frequent conversations have been had regarding particular schools, and she said that more than half the schools did not include teachers in the process. She stated that there were small groups of people, or one or two individuals, with whom certain Principals worked to create a budget without input from the staff. She expressed concern that some staff members’ positions may have been eliminated due to personal feelings on the part of

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

Administration. Ms. Johnson-Lafleur said that other things may have happened, such as deciding where to allocate funds and where to make cuts. She stated the lack of input from staff is a huge problem, and she asked how this can be remedied and the process made clean.

Ms. Johnson-Lafleur said that in more than 50% of the school buildings, the teachers are not in agreement with the school budget because they had no input to the process. Further, she said she knows for a fact that, in many cases, the budget committee signature sheets from some schools were not signed by SLT members. She said the chief TEA representatives from some of the buildings were not part of the process and did not execute the signature sheets. She gave the example of Mott School being the source of complaints to TEA that a certain individual, who is not really part of Mott School, did the entire budget without including teachers in the process.

In closing, Ms. Johnson-Lafleur stated that there are issues that were brought to the attention of leadership, but the remedy is not adequate. She said this is the second year that she has had to address the Board about the non-inclusion of teachers in the budget process, and she asked the Board to discuss her concerns in Executive Session.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Tatum made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor-Hayes with all Board Members in agreement.

Ms. Montañó read the Executive Session Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, negotiations, and legal matters;

**WHEREAS**, The aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in public meeting; and,

**WHEREAS**, The aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

**RESOLVED**, That the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff at the conclusion of the public segment of this meeting, and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

**ADJOURN 5:36 p.m.**

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

**REOPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

Open Public Meeting reconvened at 6:41 p.m. All Board Members, with the exception of Board President Sanders and Board Member Rosenbaum, were present.

**PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD/BOARD DISCUSSION OF 2013-2014 BUDGET**

Ms. Howard introduced to the Board tonight's presentation on the 2013-2014 Budget, including a brief recap of the State timeframe in this regard. To begin, Superintendent Durán read the District's Mission Statement:

*All Students Will Graduate With A Vision For Their Futures,  
Motivated To Learn Continually  
And Prepared To Succeed In Their Choice of College Or Career*

Ms. Lucy Feria, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development, presented on the Academic Areas of Focus relative to the 2013-2014 Budget. Ms. Howard presented an Overview of Enrollment/Finances/Budget. A handout of the full presentation is attached. Board Member questions and comments were in the areas of:

- Reasons for increase in total number of students served (projected) in the 13-14 school year versus the 12-13 school year.
- Possibility of additional charter schools in Trenton, or possible closings of charters.
- Break-out of "Other" under Special Revenue
- Reasons for losing Perkins and Safe Schools grants
- Possibility of applying for other grants
- Definition of E-Rate funding
- Sources included in Grants Revenue, including a break-out of private sources versus Federal sources
- Reduction in percentage of expenditure for employee benefits
- Reasons for flat tax levy contribution from the City since the year 2000
- Effect of the Federal Sequester on Title funding
- Summary of the entire Budget process within the District, including at the school level - A concentrated discussion on this topic ensued among Board Members, the Superintendent and the Business Administrator.
- Criteria for selection of SLT members (Board Policy 1524)
- Source of Rent & Royalties revenue of \$10,000.00
- Source of Unrestricted Miscellaneous revenue of \$650,000.00
- Budget year for expenditures related to the reconfiguration
- Loss of Federal revenue for vocational education
- Contribution to School Based Budgets
- Posting tonight's tentative budget on the District website

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**MINUTES**

Superintendent Durán asked the Board to acknowledge the Business Office staff who worked so diligently with Ms. Howard to complete the Budget on a short timeframe.

**BOARD ACTION ON PROPOSED 2013-2014 ORGANIZATION CHARTS & SUBMISSION OF 2013-2014 BUDGET**

Motion was made by Ms. Millington and seconded by Ms. Tatum to approve the proposed 2013-2014 Organization Charts and submission of the 2013-2014 Budget to the State. The motion was **approved** by all Board Members present.

<b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Denise Millington	X		
Sasa Olessi Montaña	X		
Jason Redd	X		
Jane Rosenbaum	not present for vote		
Nicola Tatum	X		
Mary Taylor-Hayes	X		
Justine Torres	X		
Gerald Truehart II	X		
Toby Sanders	absent		

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Trenton Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Resolution for **Submission of the 2013-2014 Budget** to the New Jersey State Department of Education as follows:

General Fund	\$245,802,439
Special Revenue	\$ 40,719,154
Tax Levy	\$ 21,115,662
Total Budget	<u>\$307,637,255</u>

Motion was made and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

**ADJOURN** 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Jayne S. Howard*

Jayne S. Howard  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary