

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday – March 24, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

Convened at 5:09 PM

Call to Order

Reed Gusciora, Mayor of Trenton, called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gusciora led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Reed Gusciora
Council Member Santiago Rodriguez
Board President Addie Daniels-Lane
Board Vice President Taraun McKnight

Absent:

Council Member Kathy McBride

Superintendent of Schools – Ronald C. Lee – Present

Business Administrator/Board Secretary – Jayne S. Howard - Present

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Jayne S. Howard

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, the Times and the Star Ledger. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Formal action will take place at this meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to speak.

DISCUSSION-PUBLIC HEARING

Superintendent Lee spoke about highlights of the 2020/2021 Budget:

- Adding \$14M to schools
- Reducing Central Office budget by \$23M

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- Adopting new Language Arts Curriculum in Grades K-8
- Increasing Math & Literacy support at Elementary Schools
- Adding at least one Reading Specialist at Elementary Schools, with two at the larger schools
- Expanding the number of Bilingual classrooms
- Opening Stokes Elementary School for General Ed students in Grades K-3 with Bilingual classrooms
- Adding classes in Special Ed to reduce Out of District costs
- Expanding Professional Development for Teachers and including proper supports
- Increasing digital learning
- Bringing back Gifted & Talented in Elementary Schools
- Expanding dual credit college programs at the Secondary level
- Expanding summer school offerings
- Adding a School Resource Officer at the Secondary schools in cooperation with the City and Police Department; at least five SROs are planned
- Moving Daylight/Twilight students to the West Campus

Mr. Dwayne Mosley, Facilities Administrator, provided an overview of the Capital Projects Budget.

Ms. Howard asked Mayor Gusciora for an update on the 2019/2020 Capital Projects. Mayor Gusciora stated there is a bond ordinance before Council for approval. A concentrated discussion ensued, and the City and Council will endeavor to get this ordinance on the docket and approved.

Questions and/or comments from the BOSE Members regarding the 2020/2021 Tax Levy and the 2020/2021 Capital Projects were as follows:

- Transportation for Bilingual students attending Stokes
- Ensure that repairs are completed at the West Campus prior to students arriving in September
- Vocational programs being offered at the West Campus
- HVAC system at the West Campus
- Asbestos assessment
- Encouragement for Council to pass the bond ordinance
- Possibility to combine the 19/20 and 20/21 Capital Projects in one ordinance
- Reason for the reduction in the grants amount of the budget
- Assisting students who do not have access to a computer or the internet

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ACTION BY BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

- *Resolution to Adopt the 2020/2021 Tax Levy*

WHEREAS, the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton has reviewed the 2020/2021 Trenton Board of Education budget in the amount of \$354,570,325; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton concurs with the Trenton Board of Education that \$23,313,397 in local tax revenue is necessary for the purpose of supporting the General Fund portion of the 2020/2021 school district budget; now **therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton approves the 2020/2021 local tax levy of \$23,313,397 for the purpose of supporting the 2020/2021 school district budget.

The Resolution to adopt the 2020/2021 Tax Levy was **approved** by all Board of School Estimate members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mayor Gusciora	X		
Kathy McBride	absent		
Santiago Rodroquez	X		
Addie Daniels-Lane	X		
Taraun McKnight	X		

- *Resolution to Adopt the 2020/2021 Capital Projects Budget*

WHEREAS, the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton has reviewed the proposed 2020/2021 Trenton Board of Education listing of proposed Capital projects in the amount of \$2,850,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Estimate concurs with the Trenton Board of Education as to the need to authorize funding for the listing of proposed Capital Improvement Projects in the amount of \$2,850,000.00; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton approves the 2020/2021 Capital Improvement Project budget for the Trenton Board of Education and authorizes funding of \$2,850,000.00 for the projects listed.

The Resolution to adopt the 2020/2021 Capital Projects Budget was **approved** by all Board of School Estimate members present.

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<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mayor Gusciora	X		
Kathy McBride	absent		
Santiago Rodroquez	X		
Addie Daniels-Lane	X		
Taraun McKnight	X		

- *Resolution to Increase the Tax Levy for 2021/2022*

WHEREAS, the Trenton Board of Education has been facing increasing costs to educate the children of Trenton; and

WHEREAS the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton recognizes the financial struggles of the District and wishes to alleviate the impact of the increasing costs on the District’s budget; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Estimate of the City of Trenton approves an increase of \$466,267, which is two (2) percent of the 2020/2021 local tax levy, and authorizes \$23,779,664 to support the General Fund portion of the 2021/2022 school district budget.

The Resolution to Increase the Tax Levy for 2021/2022 was **approved** by all Board of School Estimate members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Mayor Gusciora	X		
Kathy McBride	absent		
Santiago Rodroquez	X		
Addie Daniels-Lane	X		
Taraun McKnight	X		

Mayor Gusciora called for adjournment at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
 Business Administrator/Board Secretary