

The Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey was called to order by the Mayor at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Levine read the following statement: "In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Special Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and by faxing to the officially designated newspapers, a notice indicating that the Special Meeting would take place at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. on May 2, 2006. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk."

The Deputy Township Clerk called the roll.

Present: Deputy Mayor Ashley-Williams, Ms. Daniel, Ms. Eberle, Mayor Levine, Mr. McKenzie, Ms. Ritchie, Mr. Vassanella

Absent: Mr. Regan, Mr. Sumter

Also Present: Marc D. Dashiield, Chief Financial Officer and Virginia M. Woodbury, Deputy Township Clerk.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. McKenzie moved to open the public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ashley-Williams and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. McKenzie moved to close the public discussion portion. Said motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ashley-Williams and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #06-174 Accept Immediate Ownership & Responsibility for the Water Mains Installed as Part of the Franklin Park Water Main Extension Project.

Mayor Levine presented the following resolution:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Franklin in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey does hereby agree to accept immediate ownership and responsibility for the water mains installed as part of the Franklin Park Water Main Expansion project.

Motion was made by Ms. Danile and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ashley-Williams.

The motion to adopt Resolution #06-040 carried as follows upon call of the roll:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ashley-Williams	Levine			Regan
Danile	McKenzie			Sumter
Eberle	Ritchie			
	Vassanella			

DEFEATED 2006-2007 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mayor Levine opened the discussion of the defeated 2006-07 Board of Education Budget at this time.

Presentation was made by Eva Nagy, President of the Board of Education, John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Board Secretary, Kim Esterman, Charlotte

Weisner, Peter Johnson, Board of Education member, Carl Wade, Student Advocate, Henry Sherren, Director of Pupil Personnel.

Ms. Nagy offered the following for the Council's guide to the many aspects of the budget and invited Council's comments and questions:

2006-2007 Proposed Budget

Dear Community Members,

The 2006-07 Budget has been designed to not only maintain, but to continue to strengthen district programs as we strive toward meeting the educational goals for all the children of this community while being fiscally prudent. This has been one of the most difficult years for all public school districts to develop budgets. State aid numbers were not released until March 23rd. Due to the shortened budget calendar, budget information could not be mailed.

This budget is based on the following factors:

- Continued increase in student enrollment
- Continued improvement in student achievement
- Continued changes in State, No Child Left Behind and Special Education requirements
- Continued improvement in school climate

This budget is challenged by the following factors:

- Inadequate State Aid funding continues, with levels based upon enrollments from October 2000 (a loss of aid for 1,522 students)
- Mandates have not been reduced
- Yearly shortfall of more than \$2 million of Federal Aid
- Reliance on local property taxes to fund all shortfalls
- State imposed Budget Cap
- Increases in fixed costs are more than State imposed budget cap increase (once again)
- Two charter schools costing approximately \$720,000

These factors are the basis for increases in staffing and programming needs, as well as changes in curriculum and programs. More than \$2.3 million in cuts were made to present the budget at cap.

Please study the information before you so that you will be able to make an informed decision on April 18th.

Mission of the Franklin Township School District

The Mission of the Franklin Township Public Schools is to provide: excellent educational opportunities for every student; maintain an environment that engenders an appreciation of the value of every student; develop every student to his or her highest potential; and instill the attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary to become independent, contributing members of a democratic, multicultural society.

The budget is the financial statement of the Mission of the school district.

Enrollment Growth

Franklin schools continue to grow.....and grow.....

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	Projected <u>2006</u>
6,288	6,609	6,862	7,090	7,171	7,613	7,810

2005 actual enrollment is 300 students higher than projected.

Note: This includes Charter School students as required by the State of NJ

Budget Highlights – Proposed Staffing

These factors contribute to proposed increases in staffing:

- Student Enrollment Growth
- MCLB & I.D.E.I.A.
- School Climate.

Elementary

- ✓ 3 classroom Teachers (P-4)
- ✓ 1 Kindergarten Classroom Aide
- ✓ 1 (half-time) Coordinator of Student Discipline & Attendance
- ✓ 1 World Languages Teacher
- ✓ 1 Science Teacher

Franklin Middle School

- ✓ 1 Academic Support Teacher (Language Arts/Literacy)
- ✓ 1 Coordinator of Student Discipline & Attendance
- ✓ 1 Physical Education/Health Teacher
- ✓ Extracurricular (Stipends) – Tennis (Boys & Girls; 2 seasons) – District support for grant funded “Sports for Life” tennis/academic tutoring program

Franklin High School

- ✓ 1 Core Academic Team (4 Teachers: English, Math, Science & Social Studies)
- ✓ 1 English Teacher
- ✓ 1 Math Teacher
- ✓ 1 Physical Ed./Health Teacher
- ✓ 1 Science Teacher
- ✓ 1 Social Studies Teacher
- ✓ 1 Spanish Teacher
- ✓ 3 Elective Subject Teachers (Art; Business Ed., Ind. Arts/Tech. Ed.)
- ✓ Extracurricular (Stipends) – Athletic Trainer Support (3 seasons)
- ✓ 3 Special Ed. Teachers (Resource Center or In-Class Support)
- ✓ Increase Student Data Assessment Specialist from Part-time to Full-time

25.5 New Positions

Budget Highlights – Programs

These factors contribute to enhancements of existing programs and/or creating new programs:

- **Increased Student Achievement**
 - Mathematics
 - Course sequence revisions to challenge students in grades 7-8 and 9-12, align to the NJ Core Curriculum Standards and GEPA, HSPA , and Advanced Placement math courses requiring curriculum and professional development.
 - Language Arts/Literacy
 - Strengthen strategies to enhance the development of comprehension skills and coordinate reading materials to include cultural and research supplies by purchasing novels and books for media centers.
 - Provide research based differentiated instruction in K-6 literacy by implementing novel units to balance classical and contemporary literature.

- Science
 - Instructional adaptations (materials and training) based on curriculum revisions in grades 3-6 Science, Science and Technology magnet instruction grades K-6 and Biology courses in grades 10-12.
- **Increased Student Enrollment**
 - Career Education and Consumer/Family Science
 - Expand instructional choices for Accounting, Marketing, and Business Education courses through curriculum and professional development.
 - Visual and Performing Arts
 - Enhance instructional choices through curriculum development and instructional materials for Dance, Drama and Art.
- **Constant Changes – State & NCLB**

Due to constant changes in NJ Core Curriculum Content standards & NCLB Requirements, Curriculum & Professional Development for Staff are needed in:

- Language Arts
 - Provide professional development for grades 7-12 teachers to align instruction to new courses, course sequence, and reading lists.
- Social Studies
 - Curriculum and professional development provided for revisions to World History, grades 10 and 11, and Institute for Political and Legal Education courses.
- Science
 - Provide professional development to address inquiry science, to develop strategies for applying critical thinking, math and writing skills in Physics and Advanced Geology courses.
- World Languages
 - Implement the Spanish program by providing instructional materials and teacher training in grades 3-6.
- Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
 - Incorporate fitness for life instruction into grades 3-6 by providing teacher training.

Do you know what your district must provide???

When it comes to the local school budget, our school district has a series of programs and services that it must provide because of state, federal and local mandates.

Here is a sampling of these mandated services.....

1. Special Education:

- Responsible for Education and Related Services for Ages 3-21
- Tuition for Out-of-District Placements
- Child Study Teams (includes Learning Teacher Disability Consultant, Speech/Language Specialist, Social Worker and School Psychologist)
- Related Services such as Occupational, Physical and Behavioral Therapy and Speech
- Transportation – In and Out-of-District as Required per Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Preschool Handicapped Program
- Nurse Assistants – In Class and on School Bus
- Assistive Devices/Technologies for Students, Teachers and Parents
- Litigation Expenses
- IEP Meeting Expenses
- In District Teachers and Paraprofessionals*
- Out-of-District Paraprofessionals*
- Full Inclusion Programs*
- Extended School Year Education Services

*(*State Mandates Provide Guidelines for Enrollment Cap in Specific Programs)*

2. **Section 504 of Federal Civil Rights Legislation Mandates Services for Persons with Handicapping Conditions**
3. **K-12 Testing Materials**
4. **English As A Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual Instruction**
5. **Compliance and Alignment with Core Curriculum Content Standards Through Updating Textbooks, Materials and Curriculum Including:**
 - Language Arts Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Technology Literacy
 - Visual and Performing Arts
 - World Languages
 - Career Education and Consumer, Family and Life Skills
 - Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
6. **Additional Mandated Programs and Services:**
 - Drug & Alcohol Education
 - Aids Education
 - Holocaust Education
 - Gifted Education
 - Health Education and Guidance Services
 - Family Education
7. **Full-day Kindergarten & 2 ½ hour Pre-Kindergarten (4-year olds) Programs**
8. **Home Instruction**
9. **Charter School**
 - State Mandated Per Pupil Allocation Amount
 - Transportation Services
10. **School Physician**
11. **School Optometrist**
12. **Transportation – Public, Parochial, and Private**
 - Provide services or payments of \$794/year per non-public pupils
13. **Auditing/Actuarial of District Finances and Records**
14. **License/Software Support Fees for Personnel, Payroll and Fund Accounting and Instructional Programs**
15. **Technology Maintenance and Support Fees**
16. **Property/Liability/Auto/Commercial/Athletic Insurance**
17. **Utilities**
18. **Trash Removal**
19. **Various Building Maintenance/Inspections/Registrations**
20. **Compliance with Minimum Maintenance Spending Requirement Per Building**
21. **New Jersey School Boards Association Membership**
22. **New Board Member Orientation**
23. **School Elections**
24. **Legal Advertisements**
25. **Employer Obligations**
 - Social Security
 - Worker’s Compensation
 - Professional Development – 100 Hours Certification
 - Requirement (In-Service Days, Workshops and Tuition Reimbursement)
 - Counseling Services - Staff
26. **Breakfast Program for Grades K-12**
27. **Reconditioning of Sports Equipment and Playgrounds**
28. **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Planning and Preparation Data Retrieval/Analysis**
29. **Social Concerns**
 - Drug Testing Students
 - Providing Grief Counseling

30. Safety/Security

- Security Guards
- Crisis Management Planning, Teams, Materials, Equipment
- Health Equipment Mandates – Epi-pens, Difibulators
- Aids handling
- OSHA – Hazardous Material Labeling Handling

Cost Saving Measures

- ✓ Continued participation in ACT (Alliance for Competitive Telecommunications) and educational rate program for savings on telecommunications costs such as telephone and Internet.
- ✓ Continued participation in the ACES (Alliance for Competitive Energy Services) program to reduce utility costs.
- ✓ Re-evaluation of insurance policies to reduce cost of annual insurance premiums.
- ✓ Shared services agreement with Franklin Township to reduce cost of vehicle maintenance, storage space, and fueling facilities for the District' s fleet.
- ✓ Continued participation in coordinated services with the County Educational Services Commission (Hunterdon, Middlesex and Somerset) to help reduce costs, including specialized transportation services.
- ✓ Seek grants and alternate funding sources to provide programs and services for students by staff.

How We Got to CAP

- Reduction of proposed staffing requests - \$2.3 million
- Elimination of Various Facility Upgrades
- Reduction of Technology Supplies and Equipment
- Elimination of Two New Copy Machines
- Reduction of Various Musical Instruments
- Elimination of Standardized Software Programs
- Elimination of Musical Storage System – Grades 9-12
- Reduction of Various Athletic Uniforms
- Reduction of Athletic Stipends
- Elimination of In-District Work Study Program

2006-2007 Major Budget Increases

<u>Budget Category</u>	2005-06 Revised Budget	2006-07 Proposed Budget	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
Out-of-District Tuition	\$11,716,148	\$13,450,732	\$1,734,584	14.81%
Special Education Inst.	\$6,390,293	\$7,451,523	\$1,061,230	16.61%
Transportation	\$10,188,065	\$11,262,396	\$1,074,331	10.54%
Health Benefits	\$11,801,854	\$14,373,939	\$2,572,085	21.79%
Employer Obligations	\$2,137,537	\$2,583,070	\$445,533	20.84%
Property & Liability Ins.	\$435,238	\$478,741	\$43,503	10.00%
Utilities (Heat & Elec.)	\$2,222,992	\$2,531,309	\$308,317	13.87%
Charter School	\$71,061	\$719,291	\$648,230	912.22%

Administrative Costs

	<u>Per Pupil</u>
2005-06 Revised Budget	\$1,329
2006-07 Regional Limit	\$1,554

2006-07 Budget

\$1,313

NOTE: The District's per pupil cost for Administration of \$1,313 must be less than or equal to the lower or either the regional limit of \$1,554 of the District's 2005-06 revised budgeted per pupil cost for Administration of \$1,329.

Sample Ballot

Question No. 2

The Board looked at establishing an alternative program for students outside the district several years ago with the previous Superintendent, Mr. Frank Pepe. Because of financial constraints due to several years of budget defeats, increasing needs of the district, and charter school requirements, an alternative program was not in previous budgets. Last year it was put into the budget in a smaller version and upon the budget defeat had to be cut.

Alternative education programs provide an option for students who are not succeeding in their present educational setting. Such programs can serve a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to:

- Preventing drop-outs
- Increasing academic performance of students in the program
- Addressing the needs of disruption/disenfranchised students
- Decreasing disruptions in the regular school

During the extensive discussion of the budget, Township Attorney Rainone arrived at 8:25 pm.

Following the presentation, members of the Council continued to make comments and questioned members of the administration and Board of Education.

At the end of the discussion Mr. Vassanella made a motion to schedule a meeting of the Council on May 16, 2006. Motion was seconded by Mr. McKenzie. The motion failed as follows upon call of the roll:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Danile	Vassanella	Ashley-Williams		Regan
Levine		Eberle		Sumter
		McKenzie		
		Ritchie		

Members of the Council who voted no preferred to use the Regular Meeting of May 9th, at which time a second discussion with the Board of Education was scheduled, as an opportunity to make decisions concerning the budget. It was decided that the Council would evaluate their progress at the May 9th Regular Meeting to determine if a meeting would be necessary on May 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. McKenzie and seconded by Ms. Ritchie to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Virginia M. Woodbury, Deputy Clerk

Approved:

Date: