

The Board of Education of the Borough of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, held a **Work Session** in Room # 19 at Thomas Edison School, 37-01 Fair Lawn Ave., Fair Lawn, New Jersey, on **September 8, 2014**.

The meeting was called to order by President Quackenbush at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Banta, Mrs. Frenkel (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Mr. Klein, Mr. Mancinelli, Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Spindel, Mr. Tratner, Mrs. Wallace, Ms. Quackenbush

Others Present:

Mr. Bruce Watson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Joanne Wilson, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mrs. Lisa Panagia, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Paul Green, Board Attorney

Flag Salute

The flag salute was led by President Quackenbush.

Sunshine Statement – Chapter 231, Laws of 1975

President Quackenbush read a statement that advance notice of this meeting, as well as the Agenda, had been distributed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 231, Laws of 1975 (Sunshine Law).

1. Referendum

Lisa Gorab, Bond Attorney, reviewed details of the Referendum Timeline:

- We have a ROD Grant in place for the roof projects that qualify for 40% funding. The Board agreed to include these projects in the December Referendum.
- New construction never gets 40% funding but the District should get some aid. This funding information is still pending.
- At the October 16th Board Meeting the Board should adopt a resolution:
 - (i) declaring its intent to present a school facilities project to voters at a special school district election; (ii) setting forth specific form of ballot question(s); (iii) establishing election polling hours; (iv) authorizing Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make required communications concerning special ballot questions with County Superintendent of Schools, Count Clerk and County Board of Elections and Municipal Clerks, (v) authorizing School Administration, Architect and Bond Counsel to undertake all required administrative processes concerning special ballot questions (vi) accepting preliminary eligible costs and (vii) **accepting debt service aid for addition project and grant aid for roof projects (previously approved as part of the ROD Grant funding.)**
- Ms. Gorab will work with the Board on a fact sheet to make the question simple and clear to voters.

Referendum (continued)

Steve Secora of LAN Associates reported LAN has been working with the New Jersey Department of Education on the application for the Westmoreland School addition. The State Manager, Mr. Anthony Brun, verbally indicated that he is recommending approval of the project. It was noted that the calculated unhoused students is 95 which translates to 11,875 sq. ft. of new building area. The proposed addition is 16,540 sq. ft. Therefore, only the 11,875 sq. ft. addition would be eligible for funding. The calculated Preliminary Eligible Cost (PEC) is 11,875sq. ft. x \$143/sq. ft. = \$1,698,125 plus \$42,065 for renovations. The total PEC is \$1,740,190; therefore, eligible funding (debt service aid) is 40% of this number or \$698,476.

Ms. Gorab and Mr. Secora will be present at the October 16, 2014 Board Meeting in order to provide further information on the referendum process and final building plan.

2. Community Service

Mr. Spindel shared his perspective on the benefits of requiring 10 hours/year Community Service from each student in the High School in order to graduate. Jeanine Hayek, Matt Cahn and Jim Marcella presented on the many Community Service activities taking place at the High School. Discussion took place.

Mrs. Wallace made a motion to accept Mr. Spindel's proposal.

Straw Poll is as follows:

2-yes
5-no
1-abstain

3. Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal from Jeff Klein

Mr. Klein summarized his proposal.
Discussion took place.

4. Revisit Televising/Streaming Meetings

Do we add Education Meetings to streaming? Taped for TV? Mrs. Wilson was asked to investigate the technical requirement for taping the Education Meetings, so they can be transferred to the TV Channel 77 format.

Ms. Quackenbush asked for a motion to adjourn.
Mrs. Wallace moved and Mr. Rosenberg seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joanne Wilson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION SCHEDULE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014**

Date	Action	Responsible Party(ies)*
Completed	Board to adopt resolution (1) approving project educational specifications, schematic plans and drawings and seeking Debt Service Aid funding (the "Project Application") for an addition project (grants have already been awarded for certain roof projects) and (2) authorizing submission of same to County Superintendent of Schools, NJDOE and Planning Board, if necessary.	BOE
Completed	Submit Project Application to NJDOE	BOE, ARCH
Completed	Deliver project schematic plans and drawings to Planning Board, if necessary.	BOE, ARCH
?? completed??	Board to meet with Planning Board, if requested.	ARCH, BOE, BC
Completed	Board to adopt resolution determining to hold election	BOE, BC
By September 30, 2014	NJDOE to (1) advise Board of its determination of eligible project costs and amount of Debt Service Aid for addition project; and (2) approve project educational specifications and schematic plans and drawings	BOE
Early October, 2014	Bond Counsel to request the Chief Financial Officer of Borough to prepare Supplemental Debt Statement reflecting proposed school bonds.	CFO, BC
Early October, 2014	Business Administrator/Board Secretary to receive Supplemental Debt Statement from Chief Financial Officer of Borough. Board to adopt referendum authorizing resolution (i) declaring its intent to present a school facilities project to voters at a special school district election; (ii) setting forth specific form of ballot question(s); (iii) establishing election polling hours; (iv) authorizing Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make required communications concerning special ballot questions with County Superintendent of Schools, County Clerk and County Board of Elections and Municipal Clerks; (v) authorizing School Administration, Architect and Bond Counsel to undertake all required administrative processes concerning special ballot questions (vi) accepting preliminary eligible costs, and (vii) <u>accepting debt service aid for addition project and grant aid for roof projects (previously approved as part of the ROD grant 4 funding.</u>	CFO BOE, BC
By October 10, 2014	Bond Counsel to provide "60-day" notice to election officials.	BC
October-December, 2014	Conduct Voter Education/Tax Impact Analysis	BOE, FA, BC, A
By October 14, 2014	Municipal Clerk or County Clerk, on behalf of Municipal Clerk, to publish Notice to Persons Wanting Mail-In Ballots Notices authorized newspaper (must be at least 56 days prior to date of election).	EO
By November 9, 2014	Send copy of final referendum authorizing resolution to County Superintendent of Schools, County Clerk and County Board of Elections, and to the Municipal Clerk, requesting that they undertake their required administrative functions concerning election	BC
Between November 1 and December 5, 2014	County Board of Elections to publish notices of election required under N.J.S.A. 19:12-7 in an authorized newspaper, once during the 30 days preceding date fixed for closing of registration to vote in election, and once in calendar week preceding week in which election will be held.	EO, BC
November 25, 2014	Last day election challenger applications can be filed with County Board of Elections (must be filed by 2nd Tuesday preceding the date of election).	EO
By December 8, 2014	File Supplemental Debt Statement with Director of the Division of Local Government Services, NJ Department of Community Affairs.	BC
December 9, 2014	Conduct special school district election.	EO

***Responsible Party(ies) Key:**

A-Auditor
ADM – Administration
ARCH – Architect
AUD – Auditor
BOE – Board of Education

BC – Bond Counsel
CFO – Municipal Chief Financial Officer
EO – Election Officials
FA – Financial Advisor

Full-Day Kindergarten Equity and Supplement Program.
(This is a working name)

Objectives:

- Provide Kindergarten students with a more thorough academic and social education than what is/can be reasonably provided within the existing financial and spatial parameters.
- Provide equity to parents who:
 - Do not have students eligible for B.S.I. Full-Day,
 - Do not get into the limited space in KIKO.
- Provide students with greater access to a full-day Kindergarten.
- Avoid a costly referendum.
- Keep Fair Lawn current with neighboring districts, which provide a full-day Kindergarten.

The Solution:

- Provides a greater level of equity to students and parents.
- Does not require more space to be built.
- Costs half of the required \$915,000.
- Allows students more learning time.
- Allows for the necessary social growth that is normally gained in a full day.

Facts:

- All students are entitled to equal access to education.
- Fair Lawn does not have the space to provide all students with a full-day Kindergarten program
- Our budget is not built to sustain a yearly \$915,000 price tag without sacrificing other quality programs and curriculum.
- A great inequity exists:
 - Some parents are able to get a full-day, free of charge.
 - Some parents are able to get their child into KIKO- which is much cheaper than private programs and provides transportation.
- The district scores very well in the elementary levels- students seem to catch-up to peers yet this is not a reason to take the opportunity to have even greater performance.
- The board has claimed it wants a full day Kindergarten and it may have to use alternate ways of thinking to get it.
- A second referendum during a political cycle, in which discussion on high taxes will be at the forefront, makes the referendum very difficult to pass.
- Too much time has already passed and three more years is not acceptable.
- Not all alternative discussions have been vetted
- The proposal is temporary but workable until there is a better, long-term solution.

THE PROGRAM:

- Generally, there are 350 students who would be enrolled in half day Kindergarten.
- Those students, who wish to have a longer Kindergarten day or do not:
 - Go to KIKO
 - Get enrolled in B.S.I.
 - Get Special Education Services
 - Will receive transportation to a private half-day program in town.
 - Will receive money that is divided equally from a pre-determined, budgeted allowance.
- Parents may only send students to Fair Lawn Qualified programs.
 - Qualified programs are to be determined by the administration.
 - General guidelines will be that a program:
 - Encompass a safe, student-friendly environment
 - Taught by a certified teacher
 - Uses the Core Curriculum
 - Trained in the "Core" by a Fair Lawn Liaison
 - Audited yearly for positive progress and outcomes
- Funds will be used to hire a part-time employee, who will oversee the program.
 - His or Her responsibilities include:
 - Auditing the private centers
 - Training the teachers
 - Overseeing Transportation