

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY**

March 29, 2011  
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- Meeting** A Public Hearing of the Board of Education was held at the Valley Middle School on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Mr. Scerbo.
- Flag Salute** The salute to the flag was led by Mr. Scerbo.
- Meeting Notice** Legal notice of the meeting was posted and the press was notified as required by law.
- Roll Call** The following members were present: Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Ms. Matts, Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Talamini. Also present were Dr. Richard G. Heflich, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. James J. Davis, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and eight members of the public and six administrators.

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

This Special Meeting has been called, as required by law, as a Public Hearing on the proposed School Budget for the 2011/2012 school year. It is intended to provide the public with information concerning the budget and to answer any questions there may be on that subject. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Education will deliberate, as needed, and take action to adopt a proposed budget for the 2011/2012 school year. The tax levy will be submitted to the voters on April 27, 2011.

II. 2011/2012 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Proposed 2011/2012 Budget:

*"Celebrate Our Students  
Celebrate Our Schools"*

Presentation:

*Welcome and Budget Goals*  
Mr. John A. Scerbo, President

*External Factors Impacting The Budget*  
Ms. Jennifer Matts, Finance Chairperson  
and Board Members

*Tough Decision-Making: What Does The Budget Include?*  
Ms. Jennifer Matts, Finance Chairperson

*In 2011/2012, How Will Our Schools Be Funded?*  
Mr. James Davis, School Business Administrator

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*Containing Costs and Creating Partnerships*  
Dr. Heflich, Superintendent of Schools

*Celebrate Our Students And Our Schools*  
Dr. Heflich, Superintendent of Schools

*School Tax Rate and The Allocation of Funding in the Budget*  
Mr. James Davis, School Business Administrator

*Election Details: Please Vote*  
*Mr. John A. Scerbo, President*

*Thank You.*

Available to the public:

- 2011/2012 Proposed Advertised Budget
- 2011/2012 Proposed Budget Fact Sheet

**Audience Participation**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to open meeting for public comment on the Agenda. Voice Vote: ALL AYES.

- 1) Ms. King asked the following questions:
  - a. 2% cap?
  - b. Teachers contract (estimated and included in the FY 2011/2012 budget)?
  - c. Rosetta Stone - Level 2 Spanish - Elementary School?
- 2) Mr. Latz asked the Board about controlling the costs of out-of-district special needs students. He suggested that the BOE consider a bond referendum in order to provide space to accommodate bringing these students back to Oakland Public Schools.
- 3) Ms. Marcalus, Councilwoman for the Borough of Oakland, stated that she was very impressed by the school budget.
- 4) Ms. Lustig stated that she was very supportive of the school budget. In addition, she stated that when school districts are faced with another year of layoffs, cutting services and privatizing staff, Oakland was able to maintain these vital supports while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded close meeting for public comment on the Agenda. Voice Vote: ALL AYES.

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**Finance**

**2011/2012 Budget**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded that it be resolved that the Oakland Board of Education adopt the following final School District Budget for the 2011-2012 School Year for submission to the voters:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 25,834,549	\$ 25,035,559
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 593,486	
Total Debt Service Fund	\$ 348,968	\$ 230,285
Totals	\$ 26,777,003	\$ 25,265,844

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Ms. Matts. Motion carried.

**2011/2012 Tax Levy**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded that it be resolved that there should be raised for General Fund School District Tax Levy \$25,035,559\*, for the ensuing FY 2011-2012 School Year.

\*Includes an automatic Cap Adjustment approved by the Bergen County Executive Superintendent for an increase in health care costs in the amount of \$242,535.

On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Scerbo, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Talamini, Ms. Matts. Motion carried.

**Regular Education**

**Class Size Policy**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the suspension of the Board's Class Size Policy #6151 for the 2011/2012 school year, due to fiscal constraints on the District's 2011/2012 budget. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Carla Candelmo**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to approve the request from Ms. Carla Candelmo, teacher at Heights School, for a leave of absence without salary for April 7-8, 2011. On a roll call vote: AYES: Ms. Matts, Mr. Akovity, Mr. Gaffney Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

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**Special Education**

**VMS Self-Contained  
Class**

Mr. Gaffney moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to reapprove the operation of a middle school self-contained L.L.D. class at Valley Middle School for the 2011/2012 school year. (A self-contained L.L.D. middle school class was approved on June 13, 2006.) On a roll call vote: AYES: Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Akovity, Ms. Matts, Mr. Talamini, Mr. Scerbo. Motion carried.

**Cafeteria**

**New Cafeteria Equipment** Mr. Akovity moved and Mr. Gaffney seconded to approve the purchase of the following Cafeteria equipment in order to replace equipment that is no longer repairable:

- Valley Middle School – Gas Range – Cost \$ 1,525 (lowest quote attached)
- Heights School – Electric Convection Oven – Cost \$ 2,995 (lowest quote attached)

(The cost for this equipment will be paid by the Cafeteria Account, with the Board assuming responsibility for a VMS gas line.)

**Adjournment**

Ms. Matts moved and Mr. Talamini seconded to adjourn meeting. On a voice vote: ALL AYES.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. James J. Davis  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary