

**MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT HELD
February 11, 2016**

The Board Retreat of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education was called to order by Board President Fleres at 6:25 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Central Office. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Anthony Fleres	Ms. Rachel Juliana	Mr. Scott Powell
Ms. Louisa Ho	Ms. Michele Kaish	Mr. Yingchao "YZ" Zhang
	Ms. Dana Krug	

Board member Cheng arrived at 7:05 PM; Board member Zhong arrived at 8:32 PM. Present also were: Dr. David Aderhold, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary; and, Mr. Martin Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction.

CONVENE

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing a notice of the time, date, location and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to the PRINCETON PACKET, THE TIMES, THE TRENTONIAN, THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE, AND WEST WINDSOR and PLAINSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Copies of the notice have also been posted in the board office and filed with Plainsboro's and West Windsor's township clerks and in each of the district schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Fleres welcomed everyone to the retreat.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dr. Aderhold thanked everyone for participating tonight in the second budget retreat.

Welcome/Review Purpose and Outcomes

The Superintendent summarized the district's mission and reviewed the Strategic Goals for 2015-2016. Strategic Goal 1: To work toward continuous improvement of instructional programs with a focus on the developmental needs of and the social/emotional impacts on students. This goal was good to recall given some recent statements made during the public comment periods at the board meetings. For this Board and administration, the social/emotional impact on students was not a new topic.

It was noted that the cap limit on the budget is a function of the 2% increase in the general fund tax levy plus allowable health cost adjustments plus banked cap. With the health adjustment and banked cap each at about \$500,000, the Board of Education has some flexibility in the 2016-2017 budget,

Mr. Shanok reviewed the initial baseline budget projection in each of the major expenditure categories. The long standing habit of reducing expenditures in one area to increase expenditures in an area of greater need is clearly seen in this review. It continues to be an effective means of inhibiting the rate of increase in spending. This has kept the district's growth in spending well below the rate of increase of other area districts.

The Superintendent presented a detailed view of likely enrollment at each of the district's schools. He spoke of the staff additions that would build on the effective educational results of the district. Resources that would aid the instructional efforts of the district were discussed by the Superintendent and Mr. Smith.

Capital projects considered for the 2016-2017 construction cycle were noted. Increased capital outlay and continued utilization of capital reserve is needed to continue to have facilities at a suitable level. With over \$38 million of useful long-term projects already identified, discussion included the likelihood of a future referendum. With the decline in district debt levels, this possibility has potential for dealing with the challenge of maintaining facilities at a good level. COAH requirements will play out in each township and have implications for the district's enrollment.

The Superintendent noted the near term developments facing Transportation. In June 2017, fourteen busses age out. It is not impossible that West Windsor Township may call for a departure from the bus facility before that date. We are trying to evaluate the district's options in such scenarios.

The Superintendent discussed staff and other resource additions that would aid the district's forward momentum in instruction. The Board of Education participated in the discussion on these resource additions. Generally, the Board was favorable to these additions. The Board of Education consensus was that while the district should stay well within the upper limit embedded in the cap rules (2% general fund tax levy plus adjustments and banked cap), some use of these revenue sources beyond the baseline 2% could be utilized. The administration will proceed to develop the budget within this input from the Board of Education.

A tentative budget will be on the agenda for the March 8th meeting so that the district can submit a tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent by March 22nd. The public hearing and final budget approval will be April 26th.

The Superintendent and Board President Fleres thanked everyone for their participation.

Upon motion by Mr. Powell, seconded by Ms. Krug, and by unanimous voice vote of all present, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.



Larry Shanok, Board Secretary

Prepared by:



Kathleen M. Bertram