

May 6, 2010

A Special Joint Meeting of the Lafayette Township Committee and Lafayette Township School Administration was held on Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 5:00pm. in the Municipal Building, 33 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, NJ.

Members Present	Mayor Bruning, Committeemen Hughes, Corcoran, D'Angeli and Sweeney
Members Absent	None
Also Present	Clerk Fedish, Superintendent Keith Neuhs, Board Administrator Hessler Board Members: Matt Busanic, Tracy Mustachio, Rich Poshkus, Marianne Sharpe, Andy Frye, Linda Peoples, Karen Macko (Absent: Atilla Ozbek & Anne Schellenger)

Mayor Bruning opened the meeting stating it was being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 & 13.

Mr. Neuhs feels the budget defeat was due to voter frustration. He feels the proposed cuts of \$223,795 are drastic. He explained they did not go over the allowed cap and have already made some cuts. He continued discussing the Township's proposed cuts.

They will need to replace the retiring 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth) grade teacher; and there will be some savings. They cannot function with a part-time Vice Principal; this needs to be a full-time position.

They could possibly eliminate one (1) aide, not four (4), due to the students' IEP. All of the aides are tied to the special education program and are not paid for lunch. The defeated budget eliminated two (2) aides.

The elimination of the Guidance Counselor would be a problem as many problems arise; and the Child Study Team cannot pick up the slack.

The incoming 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth) grade class for 2010-2011 is approximately 28 students. The elimination of a 5<sup>th</sup> (fifth) grade teacher is not advisable for the age of the students. The class needs to be split. The starting salary for a new hire would be approximately \$43,392.

At this time, Mayor Bruning opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Troy DeWaal, Meadows Road, expressed his displeasure of there not being notice of this meeting. Mr. Neuhs said letters were sent home with the students; and this was posted on the school and Township websites.

Mr. DeWaal that when he was a student in school there were usually 28-30 students in the class; and they only had one (1) physical education teacher. He questioned the need for a Child Study Team.

Mr. Neuhs explained the Child Study Team is required by law. They need one and a half (1½) physical education teachers to cover the required minutes of PE for each student and health classes.

Mr. Gary Thomas, Meadows Road, questioned why there are no joint services for the school Business Administrator. Mr. Neuhs said Vernon Township has a joint services agreement; however, they, also, have a full-time secretarial staff. Lafayette's Business Administrator handles all services including insurance and payroll.

With there being no further comments from the public, Mayor Bruning closed the public portion of the meeting.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by D'Angeli, to adopt the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAFAYETTE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, DETERMINING AND CERTIFYING AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED FOR SCHOOL TAXES FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, in the 2010 annual school election in the Township of Lafayette, the majority of the voters rejected the amounts proposed in the Budget for the Lafayette Township School for the school year 2010-2011 for the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-37 and the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (CEIFA), the Township Committee, having thoroughly reviewed the budget and related information as presented by the Board of Education and, after consultation with the Board of Education and administration of the Lafayette Township School, has determined the amounts which, in the judgment of the Township Committee, are necessary to be appropriated for each item appearing in such Budget to provide a thorough and efficient education in the school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette that it hereby be certified to the Sussex County Board of Taxation the total of the amounts so determined to be necessary to be raised by taxes for the 2010-2011 school year for the Lafayette Township School. Said amounts to be raised are considered by the Township Committee to be sufficient to provide for a thorough and efficient educational system and maintain financial stability given the need for long term planning and budgeting. Those amounts are as follows:

General Fund:

- a. Original tax levy on ballot: \$3,660,000.00
- b. Amount of reduction: 81,565.00
- c. Amount of tax levy being certified by the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette: \$3,578,435.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underlying determinations and supporting reasons of the Township Committee for its reductions in the Lafayette Township School Budget for 2010-2011 and the decrease in the tax levy are as follows; and

ALSO, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded no later than May 19, 2010 to:

- a. Lafayette Township Board of Education
- b. Sussex County Board of Taxation
- c. Lafayette Township Tax Assessor
- d. Sussex County Superintendent of Schools (2 copies)

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Description</u>
11-000-218-100	\$18,835	\$30,835	\$12,000	Guidance Counselor
Reason: Eliminate Guidance Counselor position & add one (1) additional day for Child Study Team.				
11-000-218-600	\$500	\$500	\$0	Supplies & Materials
Reason: Elimination of Guidance Counselor – no need for supplies.				
11-000-262-100	\$8,230	\$128,575	\$120,345	Buildings & Grounds Coordinator
Reason: Eliminate Buildings & Grounds Coordinator position & reduce pay increase to \$1.5% for all non-union employees.				
11-190-100-106	\$12,000	\$58,000	\$46,000	Teacher's Aides
Reason: Eliminate one (1) Teacher's Aide.				
11-120-100-101	\$42,000	\$84,970	\$42,970	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher
Reason: Retirement of 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher & hiring replacement.				
Total Reduction	\$81,565			

Motion carried by roll call vote: Hughes-yes, Corcoran-yes, D'Angeli-yes, Sweeney-yes, Bruning-yes.

Lafayette Township Board of Education Resolution:

Motion by Marianne Sharpe, seconded by Richard Poshkus, to accept Lafayette Township's reduction recommendation of \$81,565. Motion carried by roll call vote: Busanic-No, Macko-Yes, Mustachio-yes, Peoples-yes, Poshkus-yes, Sharpe-yes, Frye-yes.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business, motion by D'Angeli, seconded by Corcoran, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA ROSE FEDISH, RMC  
Municipal Clerk