MINUTES OF THE LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING

President Taggart called the meeting to order on March 29, 2011 at 7:02 pm. Mrs. Barna read the following opening statement: "I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this special meeting of the Lopatcong Township Board of Education has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publication of a notice in the Express-Times. A copy of the agenda has been filed with the Township Clerk and posted at both school locations.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL

Present: Wade Caccese, Dennis Drake, Robert Edinger, Ernie Gallant, Joe Kennedy (arrived at 7:37 pm), Kurt Kessler, Ed Krusman, Bob McFarlane and Bill Taggart

Absent: None

Others Present: Vicki J. Pede, Superintendent; Teresa E. Barna, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Rosemary Kowalchuk, Principal; Matthew Eagleburger, Principal; Stephen Geisel, Asst. principal and 20 members of the public.

READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Pede recited the District Mission Statement.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Mrs. Pede gave the introduction. A complete budget presentation was given. Mrs. Pede reviewed the requirements for curriculum writing and keeping our curriculum up to date. The district will be implementing a new special education program at the middle school. The new anti-bullying law has many mandates and requirements that include a coordinator in each building as well as a district specialist. These requirements are effective September 1, 2011. Class size averages will remain at 20-25 students per class. The tax impact is less than one cent on the tax rate and the average tax increase is $24 on a home assessed at $300,000. The proposed budget includes staff reductions. Two instructional positions will be eliminated. Three part-time para-professional positions will be eliminated and three full-time professional positions will be reduced to part-time.

Several questions were posed regarding the impact of tuition payments to Phillipsburg High School. Mrs. Barna explained that the increase in the tuition line item to Phillipsburg is due the loss of the Abbott status. Tuition rates are adjusting and the certified rates are quickly catching up to the actual tuition rate. The district anticipated this increase and in past years had established a tuition reserve account to help offset the impact. A complete copy of the power point presentation is included in the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Shea gave a short presentation on virtual field trips. This is an idea of visiting places all over the world without leaving the classroom. Mr. Shea also demonstrated how Skype can be used to bring people into the classroom remotely or how students can participate in things that are outside the classroom.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Finance

R-209-11 Adoption of the 2011-2012 School District Budget

Motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Kessler,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent and the finance committee, after conducting a public hearing, hereby adopts the fiscal year 2011-2012 School District Budget for submission to the voters as follows:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	$14,813,741	$11,327,612
Special Revenue Fund	$259,256	$0
Debt Service Fund	$1,225,687	$990,155
Total Base Budget	**$16,298,684**	**$12,317,767**

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

R-210-11 Appoint Financial Advisor

Motion by Mr. Krusman, second by Mr. Gallant,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation by the Superintendent, appoint Capital Financial Management as the Board's Financial Advisor for the purpose of providing financial consulting services as it relates to the Bond Refinancing. Capital Financial Management will receive a fee not to exceed $10,000 plus expenses. All costs for these services will be paid from the proceeds of the refunding.

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

b. Policy

R-211-11 Second Reading of New Policy

Motion by Mr. Kessler, second by Mr. Edinger,

Be it, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and the Policy Committee, adopt on second reading the following policy.

Policy Number	Title
R2461	Special Education (Receiving Schools) (M)

Roll Call Vote: 9 – Yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Horun thanked Mr. Kennedy for his dedicated service on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:40 pm on a motion by Mr. Gallant, second by Mr. Edinger. Motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa E. Barna, RSBO
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

William J. Taggart, III
Board President