

Notes from the Mahwah Board of Education Meeting – 3/2/11

Superintendent's Report

- Girls basketball in 2nd round of state playoffs
- Hockey team was Green Division Champs
- 5 wrestlers are competing for individual titles this weekend in Atlantic City
- Mock Trial team at the High School won the Bergen County Championship and won the 1st of 2 regional competitions

Update on Open Issues

- The board has received the contract from Bergen County Special Services; will be reviewed by our lawyers- it should result in a lower amount of money going to BCSS
- The board is looking at setting up a blog to announce good news and events in the schools

Budget Stuff

- The total budget amount this year is \$59,397,470.
- Ed Deptula said this was a very preliminary budget- he is very unsure of the NJ state aid numbers. He felt that the extra \$500,000 in state aid might be yanked because, "it is contingent upon Governor Christie's reforms"
- This year the district owes a final one-time payment of \$52,000 to the state for bond debt
- The 11-12 budget includes \$116,000 in edu-jobs funds which will be put into the special education line of the budget (this is use it or lose it money)
- Currently, the 11-12 budget is about \$80,000 below the 2 percent cap. Since this is the case, the percentage we are below the cap can be transferred into next year's budget. (For example, if the budget increase is 1.8% percent this year, the cap next year could rise to 2.2%)
- The funding for special education is the same as it was last year.
- The monies for paraprofessionals has increased in the 11-12 budget due to more out of district placement students returning to the district
- Even though the budget is increased from the 10-11 budget, it is very similar in total cost to the 09-10 budget
- A 24% increase has been budgeted for health care costs. This past year, the actual increase was only 8.6%, but due to the State Health Benefits Plan being \$200,000,000 in the hole, Ed feels that the 8.6% increase will be much higher this year.
- Ed mentioned that this year's budget was easier to formulate than last year's budget, due to the increase in aid from \$700,000 to \$1,200,000. He also mentioned that he did not anticipate the wholesale staffing cuts that have been prevalent the past few years.
- The board is anticipating having the hearing on the budget at the March 23rd meeting.

Personnel Issues

- Sharon VanDerbeek's retirement papers have been accepted. She was graciously thanked for 33 1/2 years of service to the district
- Helena Peacock is resigning after serving five years in the district