**GREEN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**AGENDA**

**Special Meeting & Adoption of 24-25 SY Budget**

**June 19, 2024**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. Place: Green Hills School - Library**

**I**. **CALL TO ORDER** at 7pm by President Bilik

 **A. FLAG SALUTE-**Led by President Bilik

 **B. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**-Read by President Bilik

“This is a special meeting of the Green Township Board of Education held for the purpose of transacting appropriate Board business. In compliance with Chapter 31, Laws of 1975, the New Jersey Herald was properly notified and copies of the agenda of this meeting were appropriately posted and made available for the public.”

 **C. ROLL CALL**

 Term Roll Call

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mr. | CJ Bilik | 2024 | Present |
| Mrs. | Marie Bilik | 2026 | Present |
| Mrs. | Ann Marie Cooke | 2024 | Present |
| Mrs. | Crystal Bockbader | 2025 | Present |
| Mrs. | Kristin Post | 2024 | Present |
| Mrs. | Maureen McGuire | 2026 | Present |
| Mrs.  | Holly Roller | 2025 | Present |
| Dr. | Melissa Vela | 2026 | Absent |
|  | Vacant BOE Seat | 2025 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Dr. | Jennifer Cenatiempo, Superintendent |  | Present |
| Mrs. | Karen Constantino, SBA |  | Present |

**D. Mission**-Read by Mrs. Cooke

Green Township School District educates every student to become a confident and caring life-long learner who communicates effectively and contributes positively to the evolving needs of society. The district, in partnership with the community, promotes academic excellence and equitable opportunities for all students.

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

Acknowledge the years of service and commitment of Janice Lawrey and Sue Stobie

**-**Dr. Cenatiempo and Mr. Bollette spoke about Janice Lawrey and Sue Stobie, recognizing their service and impacts on the students and school over the years that they worked at GTSD. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Mrs. Lawrey and Mrs. Stobie.

Recess was taken at 7:17pm for cake and coffee, the board reconvened at 7:21pm

**III. INTRODUCE THE PRELIMINARY 2024-2025 BUDGET**

**ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET**

**2024-2025**

**DISTRICT NAME: Green Township School District**

**BOE MTG DATE: June 19, 2024**

**Adoption of Tentative Budget (Revised due to P.L.2024,c.13 & c.12)**

 **2024-2025**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 School Year using the 2024-2025 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:**

**GENERAL SPECIAL DEBT**

 **FUND REVENUES SERVICE TOTAL**

**2024-2025 Total Expenditures $13,941,121 $158,919 $140,919 $14,230,059**

**Less: Anticipated Revenues $ 2,646,701 $158,919 $ 47,909 $ 2,853,929**

**Taxes to be Raised $11,284,420 $0 $93,010 $11,377,430**

**And to advertise said tentative budget in the NJ Herald in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in the library at Green Hills School, New Jersey on July 17, 2024 at 7:00pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 School Year.**

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement**

**2024-2025**

**WHEREAS, the Green Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and**

**WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and**

**WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and**

**WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of $20,000 for all staff and board members.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the use of Banked Cap in the amount of $163,304. The purpose of this use will be to support the operations and programs of the school district; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board ofEducation includes in the proposed budget the use of the Health Care Cost Adjustment of $17,761. The purpose of this use will be to support the operations and programs of the school district; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board of Education includes in the proposed budget a withdrawal from the Capital Reserve in the amount of $270,000. The purpose of this withdrawal is to fund boiler conversion to natural gas, repair outdoor stairs, and adjust the sink heights in the bathrooms to code.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board ofEducation includes in the proposed budget the use of an Enrollment Adjustment of $19,349. The purpose of this use will be to support the operations and programs of the school district; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Green Township School District Board of Education includes a one time adjustment in the proposed budget of an additional amount of $150,000 under P.L. c.13. The purpose of this use will be to support the operations and programs of the school district; and**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the district’s maximum taxing authority is composed of:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **$ 214,772** | **2% Current Expense Tax Levy Increase** |
| **$10,719,234** | **Prior Year 2023 - 2024 Current Expense Tax Levy** |
| **$ 17,761** | **Increase in Health Care Costs** |
| **$ 19,349** **$ 163,304**  |  **Enrollment Adjustment****Use of Banked Cap** |

 **$ 150,000 P.L.2024, c.13 Additional Levy**

**$11,284,420 Maximum District Tax Levy 2024-2025**

**Motion – Mrs. Post Second – Mrs. Roller**

**/Roll Call/**

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**Motion Passes.**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA TOPICS** at 7:35pm-None.

 This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on agenda items pertaining to the Green Hills School District. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive it’s right thereafter not to respond. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration as timed by the Board of Education Vice President. Comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. No participant may speak more than once during each public comment session. The speaker must address the President and not individual Board Members, the Superintendent or the audience. Please state your first and last name and address for the record.

**V. OPERATIONS**

 1. Motion to approve SC Knights Summer Basketball Team to utilize the school gymnasium on July 8, 2024 through August 2, 2024, from 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

Motion – Mr. Bilik Second – Mrs. Post

/Roll Call/



**VI. PERSONNEL**

 **1.** Motion to approve the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, starting on July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the recommendation of the Superintendent:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Carol Bene | Angela Freeman | Jocelyn Mull | Daniel Scuralli | Kevin Unrath |
| Jennifer Cinotti | Jennifer Lewin | Andrew Romano | Melaina Scuralli | Emily Valentino |
| Christine Bollman-Decker (Para only) | Kaitlyn Lynch | Olivia Romano | Alexa Shotwell(Para only) | Melissa Wojdala |
| James DeYoung | Susan Machacek | Lauren Rannou | Debra Simmons | Sarah Wolenski |
| Mary Fisk | Rebecca Monahan | Olivia Sanchez | Tracy Smolen |  |
| Victoria Fox | Monerh Muheisen | Sophia Sanchez | Desiree Hall |  |

**2.** Motion to approve Anthony Ferrara as a temporary accounts payable purchasing leave replacement

from on or About July 8, 2024 through August 31,2024, up to 30 hours per week, at $25/hour, pending all required paperwork, at the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Motion – Mrs.Bockbrader Second – Mrs. McGuire

/Roll Call/



**VII. CURRICULUM**

 1. Motion to approve the 2024-2027 Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) Three-Year

Plan.

2. Motion to approve the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Safe Return Plan as attached to meet the

federal mandate for updates every 6 months.

Motion- Mrs. McGuire Second – Mr. Bilik

/Roll Call/

 

**VIII. Interview BOE Candidates-**at 7:38pm, Statement read by President Bilik discussing the 65 days and extended advertising. All of the candidates that applied are here and there was a lottery for the interview order and candidates will wait in the library and all be asked the same five questions. The board will deliberate and vote in public.

Candidate #1-Heather Ellersick

**Why are you seeking appointment to this vacant seat and what particular issue motivates you to serve on the Board of Education?**

-No personal agenda, fiduciary role, listen to the needs of the district…have extensive research on boards, my own kids are in the district…help students get the best that we can offer.

**What do you see as the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as: sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, bullying?**

-All important topics…not around when I was a kid

-Schools have role in those topics, but give parents a choice

-Do it in a way that is respectful, and covers the diversity in our community…make better citizens for Green Township.

**What attributes and behaviors are essential for School Board Members?**

-Listen before speaking, check ego at the door, accept different points of view, put in the work, make good decisions as a whole

**How does the school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?**

**-**delicate balance, exposed to in my career; okay with small increases; delicate line if we justify and show results

**What question do you wish we had asked you that we didn’t?**

**-**role on PTA or conflict?...nothing prohibiting from doing both…

Candidate #2-Alyssa Eisner

**Why are you seeking appointment to this vacant seat and what particular issue motivates you to serve on the Board of Education?**

-2 decades of experience as a public educator and have various students at Green Hills School

-Can be a resource and give back

-No issue in particular

-Anytime there has been an issue, the BOE has tackled it head on

-Educational Philosophy-do what’s best for children

**What do you see as the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as: sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, bullying?**

-Know the law that governs…Standards that we are bound by, and understand the interest of the community

**What attributes and behaviors are essential for School Board Members?**

-Commitment to education

-Ethical integrity

-Communicate and collaborate, understand governance and the choices of the community

-Adopt policy, hire superintendent, and provide thorough and efficient education

**How does the school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?**

-Budget, cost of living…state aid cuts

-As an educator, have a duty- best interest of children

-Balance, we’re giving our children the best education to lead them to their hopes and dreams

**What question do you wish we had asked you that we didn’t?**

-Appreciate your time and consideration, thank you.

Candidate #3-Maarit Kelvin Korpos

**Why are you seeking appointment to this vacant seat and what particular issue motivates you to serve on the Board of Education?**

-Started last year…

-Inspired by my own public education

-Help all children

-Specific Issues: School security, discussed and addressed…

**What do you see as the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as: sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, bullying?**

**-**Duty to ensure and help next generation with information to succeed

-Have developmentally appropriate levels; learn boundaries

-Bullying-fared with challenges, understand issues…

-Help empower students to treat each other with respect and kindness

**What attributes and behaviors are essential for School Board Members?**

-Curiosity

-Have dialogue, treat with respect, diplomacy

-Communication is key

-Break down problems and challenges, find common ground

**How does the school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?**

-Seen in action recently

-Delicate balance… have to make sure we provide highest level of education/services

-Have to balance-not causing major harm to most…and doing good for school

**What question do you wish we had asked you that we didn’t?**

-Nothing further, thank you.

Candidate #4-Jenny Corbin

**Why are you seeking appointment to this vacant seat and what particular issue motivates you to serve on the Board of Education?**

-Love for the community and want to help it be successful

-No issues…

-My friends…kids are our future

**What do you see as the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as: sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, bullying?**

**-**Anytime there are sensitive or controversial topics

-Communication…discussions with parents/guardians so they are aware of what students are exposed to

**What attributes and behaviors are essential for School Board Members?**

**-**Integrity

**-**Ability to listen with an open mind; hear, not just respond

**How does the school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?**

**-**Keep it separate…get legal/regulatory…rely on rules, can only do so much.

**What question do you wish we had asked you that we didn’t?**

-Hoping you asked about how many meetings I attended (with having three kids)…nearly 30 plus meetings in all

Candidate #5-Angie Lavery

**Why are you seeking appointment to this vacant seat and what particular issue motivates you to serve on the Board of Education?**

-Resident for 11 years

-Better understand how the school works

-Lot of time to dedicate now that both of my kids are in school

-Work well with people, don’t like confrontation, but can handle if necessary

**What do you see as the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as: sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, bullying?**

-Most controversial issues…lots of changes have gone on

-Learn to adapt…so much information available to children everywhere

-Parents should have a say

-Bullying has been around forever…does not end at school, school monitors and children are safe

**What attributes and behaviors are essential for School Board Members?**

-Communication

-Open-mindedness, listen and hear what others have to say

**How does the school board balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?**

**-**Discussing tonight…work together for what makes sense…worked in sales/business, learned how to budget/allocate…

-Want the best for the children…as a team, look at members, look at the needs and re-evaluate

**What question do you wish we had asked you that we didn’t?**

-Very passionate about education/future

-Pushing through/learning what can be done with education and academics…love to learn, and want kids to have that potential

One unfounded HIB will be briefed to the board in executive.

**IX. CLOSED MEETING**

Closed Meeting Motion was read by President Bilik at 8:22pm.

The Board of Education of the Green Township School District in the County of Sussex will adjourn into closed meeting to discuss item(s) which fall within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in

 a Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule

**b Individual privacy**

c Collective bargaining agreements

d Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected

e Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected

f Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property

g Pending or anticipated litigation

**h Attorney-client privilege**

**i Personnel–employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee**

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of pending or anticipated litigation, attorney-client privilege and personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee privilege. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

Motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing “b”, “h” and “i”

Motion – Mrs. Cooke Second – Mrs. Post

Roll Call/

“All in favor”, all board members responded with “aye”

President Bilik noted that action will be taken.

**X. RECONVENE**

 Motion to reconvene into public session at 9:42pm.

Motion – Mrs. Cooke Second – Mr. Bilik

/Roll Call/

“All in favor”, all board members responded with “aye”

**XI. BOARD BUSINESS**

 -President Bilik thanked all five candidates for their participation in the interviews, and noted that Board

Attorney, Marc Zitomer, reviewed the policy and the process for filling the vacant seat.

 **Nominations:**

Mrs. McGuire nominated Heather Ellersick

 Motion-Maureen McGuire Second-Mr. Bilik

 Mrs. Roller nominated Maarit Kelvin Korpos

 Motion-Holly Roller Second-None

 1. Motion to fill Board Vacancy, Heather Ellersick.

Motion – Mrs.Cooke Second –Mr. Bilik

/Roll Call/

 Mr. Bilik-yes, because of her unique perspective

 Mrs. Bockbrader-yes, because of her background

 Mrs. Post-yes, because of her background

 Mrs. McGuire-yes-answered questions well

 Mrs. Roller-yes

 Mrs. Cooke-yes, because of the candidate interview/perspective

 Mrs. Bilik-yes, a good representative of the community

Each BOE member stated as to why they voted for the candidate.

**XII.** 1.Oath of Office to Newly Elected BOE Candidate

 Oath of office was administered by the Board Secretary to Heather Ellersick.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

 Motion that the Board of Education shall adjourn at 9:54pm.

Motion – Mr. Bilik Second- Mrs. McGuire

/Roll Call/

“All in favor”, all board members responded with “aye”

 **Next Meeting Date:**

 July 17, 2024

**Vision**

Empower students and staff to embrace their individual strengths in a safe,

supportive environment that fosters a love of learning while pursuing their full potential.