

March 31, 2010

**Mansfield Township Board of Education  
Minutes  
Public Hearing on Budget/Work Session Meeting  
March 31, 2010**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Stabile opened the March 31, 2010 Public Hearing on Budget/Work Session Meeting of the Mansfield Township Board of Education at 7:02 p.m. with the following statement:

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the time, date, and location of this meeting was sent to the Star-Gazette and Express-Times, March 27, 2010, was posted in the municipal building and the school lobby, and is on file with the Township Clerk.

**Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Jeff Stabile

Mr. John Bell

Dr. Clancy

Ms. Tracey Janowski

Mr. Kenneth Polakowski

Ms. Kari Reyes

Mr. Russell Uhrig

Absent: Ms. Barbara Curto

Mr. Richard Young

Mr. Kemp, Mr. Melitsky, Ms. Roszkowski and approximately 175 community and/or staff members were present.

**Executive Session**

1. **MOTION** by Ms. Reyes, second by Bell and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board must consider matter(s) involving personnel and individual privacy the disclosure of which could constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the deliberation of such considerations may be held in private under the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board adjourn to executive session to discuss the above-mentioned matter(s) to the exclusion of all others. Action will not be taken.  
(7:09 p.m.)

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2. **MOTION by Mr. Polakowski, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board return to Regular Session.  
(7:32 p.m.)

**Reconvene to  
Public Session**

## **Public Hearing on Budget**

Mr. Kemp opened the discussion/presentation on the proposed budget going to the voters on Tuesday, April 20, 2010.

Ms. Roszkowski presented the Revenues and Appropriations for the Proposed 2010/2011 Budget.

## **Communications**

### **The following were read:**

1. A March 31, 2010 letter from the Mansfield Education Association:

**MEA Offers to  
Open Talks with  
regard to  
Budget**

“Dear Members of the Board of Education,

In light of the events of the past few weeks, Mansfield Education Association understands that the district is faced with new, unprecedented challenges in creating a budget that retains as many teaching positions as possible, while keeping programs intact and class sizes at an optimal level. Due to these challenges, the Association identifies the importance of opening communication with the Board of Education about the current status of our contract. While it is currently unforeseeable whether or not changes may be possible, the MEA is eager to review and discuss possibilities that could prove favorable for all involved parties. To expedite this process, the MEA is requesting that the Board of Education provide the Negotiating Team with a proposal outlining potential solutions to help face this challenge together. We look forward to the continued positive relationship and working together for the good of all members of our school community.”

Sincerely,

Amy Richardi  
MEA President

2. A March 20, 2010 letter from Pamela S. Schiesl:

**P. Schiesl  
Request to  
Reinstate**

“I am respectfully requesting reinstatement to my teaching position for the

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2010-2011 school year, following my Child Rearing Leave of absence.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.”

### Public Participation

1. Mr. Simchek asked that the \$825,000 hole be enumerated and explained. **\$825,000 Hole Explained**  
Ms. Roszkowski and Mr. Kemp replied.
2. Miss Richardi expressed gratitude and appreciation for the time, effort and consideration given in the development of the budget. The Association understands that the cuts made by the Board and Administration were not made lightly. We look forward to working with the Board and Administration on exploring how we can help. **Thank You**
3. Mr. Haitian inquired as to whether the Board was looking to open the contract to help budgetary situation. Mr. Stabile brought attention to the letter that was just read before opening Public Participation. Further, he stated that the past negotiations session was the smoothest to his recollection. **Opening Contract**
4. Ms. Baker inquired what would happen if the budget did not pass. **Process if Budget Does Not Pass**  
Mr. Stabile said that if the budget did not pass, then the budget would go for review to the Township. The Township then would have the discretion to leave the budget intact or cut. If a cut were to be made, then there would be further cuts to staff.
5. Linda Lemp thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the students of Mansfield. She enumerated her job duties and the importance of not eliminating her position. Will support budget. **Receptionist's Position**
6. Eileen Bozzuffi was in support of keeping the receptionist position and outlined her reasons. **In Support of Receptionist**
7. Lauri Favreau enumerated her job duties and her service to the children. She stated that she would be financially burdened by the Board's decision to cut her position by one day and losing family health benefits. She would no longer be able to afford the gas to come to Mansfield. **Guidance**
8. Michelle Zappulla introduced herself as one of the Special Ed teachers and thanked the Board for the opportunity of allowing her to work here. She stated that she supports the budget. **Special Ed**

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- |     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 9.  | Jen Borrmann, Meghan Kries, Stephanie Hahn, Corin Melchior: Introduced themselves as part of the teaching staff and thanked the Board for the opportunity given them and are in support of the budget.   | <b>Teaching Staff</b>                          |
| 10. | Cheryl Weissman: Stated that she “subs” at Mansfield and that, in her opinion, aides are vital to the classroom. She also expressed her support in keeping the receptionist’s position.  | <b>In Support of Aides</b>                     |
| 11. | Kathy Montgomery introduced as an aide who worked in the district for thirteen years. She stated that she was assigned to different grade levels and that Mansfield School is a wonderful place to work for – she supports the budget and understands the difficulties faced this year. Ms. Montgomery wanted to know how many aides were being cut. | <b>Aides</b>                                   |
|     | Mr. Kemp stated that, in consultation with Ms. Raiello, it was determined that the two aides most recently hired would be eliminated.  |  |
| 12. | Colleen Hurley: Spoke about the position she holds as the school nurse and realizes that her position is “safe” versus others in the school. She is in support of Lauri Favreau, and stated that emotional health is on par to physical health.  | <b>In Support of Guidance</b>                  |
| 13. | Millie Corcoran: Introduced herself as the Media Specialist and thanked Board and community for supporting the Library program in the past. She spoke about her program and how a cutback of the program would affect the staff and children as there is no library in town.   | <b>Library</b>                                 |
| 14. | Joan Weidner: Told us that she was an aide several years ago and is currently a bus driver. She is in support of Linda Lemp, Lauri Favreau, the library and computer programs.   | <b>In Support of Guidance and Receptionist</b> |
| 15. | Darelene Bertoldi: Supports teachers, guidance counselor, and Linda Lemp. She will be supporting the budget and voting yes.  | <b>In Support of Staff</b>                     |
| 16. | Three students who did not identify themselves other than being former students of Mansfield school support Linda Lemp.  | <b>In Support of Receptionist</b>              |
| 17. | Sandy Havrisko: Remembered the three students who just spoke. She explained how the instrumental music program grew over the years, and the benefits of the program to the students of Mansfield.  | <b>Music Program</b>                           |
| 18. | R. Fluta: Spoke about the importance of keeping the receptionist’s, guidance, and special education programs.  | <b>In Support of Programs</b>                  |

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19. Susan Pollack: Stated that her husband has not had a pay increase in three years. If we are serious about keeping on as many teachers as possible, was anything done to open the contract? **Opening Contract**
- Mr. Stabile stated that a letter was read earlier this evening which extended the offer. A meeting would be scheduled soon.
20. S. Volpe: Has not had a raise in 3 years . . . .what would the savings be if there were a pay freeze? Is the union serious enough to do a pay freeze? Governor Christie's offer to extend additional aid to schools where teachers take a pay freeze was brought up. **Pay Freeze**
- An analysis of Governor Christie's offer was given in terms of what it would mean to our school district. It was noted that, as early as this morning, there was no concrete answer as to how it would be implemented.
21. K. Rein: His wife works at Roxbury and is going to be rified. Wondered about the union paying 1.5% of health benefits. **Health Benefits**
22. Amy Richardi said that everyone is doing everything that can be done. **Response**
23. Mr. Sperduto wanted to know what could be done to restore everything taken away by the \$424,000 cut. Could the Board go to the town and ask for money? **Restore State Aid Cuts**
- Mr. Stabile said there was nothing that could be done as the town is a separate entity.
24. Roy Smith: The town has \$500,000 budgeted for ball fields. A lot of the town hall meetings are not being attended. Everyone has to get involved and not wait for a crisis. You just can't wait for a crisis to attend meetings. **Getting Involved**
- The Board has done an exemplary job in managing their funds – they have been fiscally responsible. We have to get behind the Board and support them. If the budget doesn't get passed, then it goes up the hill. Everyone was encouraged to go out and vote and support the Board.
25. J. Kilty: Stated that she has many fond memories of this school and is here as a taxpayer. Further, she is very aware of the cuts imposed on schools. Spoke in support of keeping the receptionist's position. **In Support of Receptionist**
26. G. Gerola: What is being done from tonight to April 20? Can the MEA make its own decisions? Is the ball in their court? **Process till Election**

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Mr. Stabile outlined what is being done in terms of the budget and steps to be taken with the MEA.

27. F. Fontana: Do we bill enough to cover expenses for outside groups? There are many extracurricular activities held in this school.

**Billing Outside  
Groups**

Mr. Fontana was assured that the billing covers electricity and other costs.

28. Colleen Hurley wanted to know if there is a mechanism to let the community know what is going on with regard to the budget.

**Mechanism to  
Alert Public**

Mr. Kemp said that we have the website, the Honeywell® system and newsletters.

29. An unidentified community member asked how cuts are determined.

**Cuts'  
Determination**

Mr. Kemp said that non-tenured teachers are considered first, then further cuts are determined on seniority and will work up the ladder.

30. Jeannie General: Thank you for all the work done in crunching the numbers and for being fiscally responsible. Mansfield's administrative cost is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest for the entire state of NJ. No big spending here at Mansfield. Thank you for freezing your salaries. Thank you, Randy, for keeping Mansfield 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the entire state for facilities. If you ever go, they will have to hire three more people to do what you do.

**Thank You**

31. Greg Donaldson: Graduated from this school and has two children attending. The Board has done a fantastic job over the years. I heard a troubling story this afternoon and want to make sure that the MEA is representative of the teachers and not of the state organization. His feelings are that the teachers in this school make the school what it is.

**MEA**

Mr. Stabile assured Mr. Donaldson that the teachers are not beholding to the state. The last negotiations with the MEA ended up in lower salary increases than neighboring towns. The MEA was aware of the economic conditions and did not place unreasonable demands on the Board. The MEA and the Board worked together and had the smoothest negotiations session completed in record time. The teachers are providing a fantastic atmosphere for our children.

32. C. Wasserman: Are the teachers going to take a pay freeze? Is there such a thing as reducing everyone? Personally, in order to keep benefits and a job, I would take a little less. Is there anyone ready to retire? That

**Budget  
Questions**

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might save a few jobs. We know you are doing the best you can. I am not going against the Board and administration.

Mr. Stabile and Mr. Kemp addressed the questions raised.

33. Sharon Huff: Supports teachers and guidance. Let's do what we can to keep what we can. **In Support of Staff**

34. Elaine Watts: I was a person who sat across Mr. Kemp who had to tell me that my position was going to be cut. Although the news wasn't good news to receive, I felt that Mr. Kemp felt worse than I did receiving the news. We need to support Mr. Kemp and we need to support the budget by going out to vote in favor of the budget. If the budget fails, then we don't know what will happen if it goes up to the town. **Support Budget**

35. An unidentified attendee suggested that contributions for healthcare be made by staff to help the situation. Is there anything being done to get staff to contribute? **Contributions to Health Care**

Mr. Stabile noted that a higher co-pay beginning this July was negotiated. The 1.5% of salary contribution toward healthcare costs does not come in to effect until this contract expires.

36. Mrs. Gerola wanted to know what could be done to increase revenues. **Increasing Revenues**

Mr. Kemp responded that an Education Foundation was just established. The Foundation will be able to go out for grants to bring in revenues. They are looking for members and trustees. The Foundation just applied for a tax number which will take six to eight months.

37. Mr. Stabile stated that all comments were sincerely appreciated. The staff and community were thanked for coming out tonight and sharing their concerns and support. **Thank You for Coming Out and Commenting**

The community was encouraged to call state representatives with their concerns and to ask why a district that had been fiscally is being treated the same as one that had not been fiscally responsible.

A ten-minute recess was called at 9:55 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 10:05 p.m.

## **Administrative Report**

None

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**Consent Agenda**

**MOTION by Mr. Bell, second by Ms. Reyes** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the following meeting/(s):

**Minutes  
Approval**

- March 11, 2010, Work Session Meeting;
- March 18, 2010 Special Session.

**Approval Agenda  
Curriculum**

1. **MOTION by Mr. Polakowski, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 Professional Development Plan.

**Professional  
Development  
Plan**

2. **MOTION by Mr. Polakowski, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar.

**School  
Calendar**

**Approval Agenda  
Finance**

1. **MOTION by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous roll call vote that the Board of Education accept 2010/2011 State Aid as follows:

**Accept State  
Aid**

• <b>Categorical Special Education Aid</b>	<b>\$ 328,176</b>
• <b>Equalization Aid</b>	<b><u>2,835,591</u></b>
<b>Total State Aid</b>	<b><u>\$3,163,767</u></b>

2. **The following resolution was moved by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous roll call vote:

**Budget  
Submission**

**Resolved** that the Mansfield Township Board of Education approve a FY 2010/2011 school district budget for submission to the voters as follows:

**BUDGET**

• General Fund	\$8,047,403
• Special Revenue Fund	248,792
• Debt Service Fund	<u>429,963</u>
• Total Base Budget	<u>\$8,726,158</u>

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Note: These budget numbers have been updated due to guidance received with regard to the capital reserve withdrawal entry.

**Be it Further Resolved** we hereby acknowledge that the budget as described above results in a General Fund tax levy of \$4,811,606 and a Debt Service tax levy of \$343,226.

3. ***The following resolution was moved by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell*** and carried by unanimous roll call vote:

**Travel**

Whereas, Mansfield School District Policy 9250b1 and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the board of education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2010/2011 school year.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mansfield Township Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2010/2011 school year at the sum of \$20,000 and

Be It Further Resolved that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Note: As of March 31, 2010, the mileage, workshop accounts have the following totals:

• Workshops	\$9,261.00
• Mileage Reimbursement	<u>862.02</u>
• Total	<u>\$10,123.02</u>

4. ***MOTION by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell*** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve the following bills lists:

**Bills List**

- March 11, 2010, to March 31, 2010, in the amount of \$917,463.59.

5. ***MOTION by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell*** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer's and Secretary's monthly financial reports as of January 31, 2010, with a balance of \$1,595,463.09.

**Secretary's/  
Treasurer's  
Reports**

6. ***The following resolution was moved by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell*** and carried by unanimous roll call vote:

**Certification**

Resolve that after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report (appropriations section) and consultation of the appropriate district

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officials, this Board of Education certifies that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)3 for the month of January 31, 2010, with a balance of \$1,595,463.09.

7. **MOTION by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by majority vote [with Mr. Bell voting “No”] that the Board of Education approve the hourly compensation of election workers at \$9.50 per hour the 2010 School Election.

**Election  
Workers Comp**

8. **The following resolution was moved by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous roll call vote:

**State Aid  
Withheld**

**Whereas**, on February 11, 2010, Governor Christie issued Executive Order No. 14, which declares a fiscal emergency in the State of New Jersey due to shortfalls in state revenues;

**Revenue  
Adjustment**

**Whereas**, the Executive Order directed the Executive County Superintendent (ESC) to reserve district state aid payments based on the amount of surplus and reserve account monies available to each district;

**Whereas**, the District was informed that \$70,946 would be withheld from the 2009/2010 fiscal year revenues due from state;

**Whereas**, the Mansfield Township Board of Education sent an appeal letter to the ESC asking for a waiver as the monies were intended for an approved windows project;

**Whereas**, the ESC denied the Board’s appeal and the district will have a shortfall in the 2009/2010 fiscal year revenues;

**Now therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Education hereby approves that the \$70,946 shortfall in revenue be reflected in the reduction of revenues;

**Be it further resolved**, that the shortfall in revenues be made up through under spending various accounts by \$70,946.

9. **MOTION by Ms. Reyes, second by Mr. Bell** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board of Education approve transfers per the March 31, 2010, Transfer Report as follows:

**Transfers**

- Fund 10: \$32,871.00

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## Public Participation

- |    |  |                              |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Amy Richardi: Thank you for your kind words and support. We will get this going quickly. Let us know when you are ready. | <b>Thank You for Support</b> |
| 2. | Elodie Kearny: Has nothing to say. It is past my bedtime.  |                              |

## Discussion

- |    |   |                                 |
|----|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Uhrig: Thank you, MEA for coming out to support each other and the school. This was a very emotional meeting. | <b>Thank You for Coming Out</b> |
| 2. | Mr. Bell: Thanked the special education aides and teachers for giving 110% of themselves.                         | <b>Thank You Teachers</b>       |

## Adjournment

**MOTION by Mr. Bell, seconded by Ms. Reyes** and carried by all ayes that the March 31, 2010, Public Hearing on Budget/Work Session Meeting be adjourned.

(10:15 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Roszkowski  
SBA/Board Secretary

Rich Young  
Vice President