

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING/SPECIAL ACTION MEETING MARCH 12, 2024
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DISTRICT GOALS - 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

- *Continue our initiative to enhance the District Math program in order to provide students with the skills necessary to prepare for future success, as measured by the planning and implementation of a rigorous, standards-based curriculum, supported by the allocation of resources, use of formative assessments, and continued professional development.*
- *Stabilize District finances in light of the challenges of S2 reduction in State aid and declining enrollment, as measured by the identification of cost-effective solutions, and potential means of revenue generation.*
- *Continue to foster a culture that supports the mental and physical well-being of our students and staff, as measured by the identification and implementation of appropriate resources, professional development, and communication about available supports.*
- *Increase a sense of unity across all schools in the District as measured by the implementation of revised communication and branding strategies, and appropriate consistency of program implementation.*

Mrs. Claire Lockwood, Board President, called to order the Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:01 p.m., in the Macopin School Auditorium. She asked for a moment of silence, led the flag salute, read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, and reminded everyone in attendance to silence or turn off their cell phones, and note the locations of the emergency exits.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, a public notice of this meeting has been sent to Board Members, all district schools, the Herald News, the Suburban Trends, the Record, the Messenger, West Milford Town Hall, the County Superintendent’s Office, the Board Attorney, Cablevision of Warwick and West Milford TV77; and posted in the Administration Building. Copies of the Board Meeting Calendar Resolution were provided to all local media, Town Hall, Township Library, and all district schools.

MR. WILLIAM SCHOLTS, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE	TRUSTEE	ATTENDANCE
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Present	Mrs. Marquard	Absent
Mrs. Jurgensen	Present	Mrs. Lockwood	Present	Mr. Lippe	Present
Mrs. Racano	Present	Mrs. Van Dyk	Present	Mrs. Romeo	Present

Minutes for the Preliminary Budget Hearing/Special Action Meeting of March 12, 2024

MR. WILLIAM SCHOLTS, BOARD SECRETARY, CALLED THE ROLL:

ADMINISTRATION	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
Dr. Lydia Furnari	Interim Superintendent of Schools	Present
Mr. William Scholts	Board Secretary/Business Administrator	Present
Mr. Daniel Novak	Director of Education	Present
Dr. Derek Ressa	Director of Special Services	Present
Andrew Brown, Esq.	Board of Education Attorney	Present

There were approximately 9 members of the public in attendance.

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Lydia Furnari

- Dr. Furnari and Mr. Scholts provided the Board and the community with a presentation on the Preliminary Budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Furnari started the presentation by thanking Mr. Scholts and his team who worked so diligently in preparing this, and the entire administrative team who helped compile the data that is being presented this evening. She spoke about budget highlights, including alignment of budget to District Goals and Strategic Plan; reductions impact the classroom last; staffing and relocation of funds to support instructional programs; program improvements; support services efficiencies; former ESSER funded expenses absorbed into local budget; banked cap and a health care adjustment included in the budget; and an increase on the tax levy of 3.11%. She also discussed continued funding for State mandated programs which included NJSLs alignment and curriculum revision (Math program and new ELA program); NJSLA readiness (iReady diagnostic and formative assessment, Conquer Math, curricular alignment for middle and high school Math course sequence); scheduling efficiencies at all schools; and sustainability and operations improvements (UGL window and door project and WMHS tennis court repair).
- Mr. Scholts continued with a presentation on the impact of S2 cuts and State Aid received for the last seven (7) years, from the 2017-2018 school year to the 2023-2024 school year, and what will be received for the 2024-2025 school year. He then presented a budget comparison for the current 2023-2024 school year versus what is proposed for the 2024-2025 school year. He presented on all of the individual expenditure categories explaining the change in each category, and the total District budget explaining the change in dollars and change in percentage.
- Dr. Furnari then presented on our operating budget expenditures by percentages in each category, which includes special programs; regular education; tuition; speech, OT, PT, extra services; child study teams; general administration; school administration; central services; operations and maintenance; student transportation; employee benefits; other expenditures; and facilities.
- Mr. Scholts presented on our revenues, which totals \$76,921,215, with the current expense tax levy being the bulk of it at 83.62%. He also spoke about the budgeted fund balance, tuition, debt service, special projects, miscellaneous (other items), transportation fees (interlocal agreements), reserve withdrawal, and State and Federal aid.

VI. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Furnari - Continued

- Dr. Furnari continued with presenting on the proportion of expenditures in the budget showing salaries at 57%, benefits at 23%, and everything else at 20%. She stated we are a very people-oriented organization and probably the largest employer in West Milford, and want to make sure to put the dollars together in a frugal manner so that we can ensure we can support all of our students and programs.
- Mr. Scholts then presented a pie chart that showed a breakout of all of our operating expenses in each category, and provided an explanation for each category.
- Dr. Furnari presented a slide showing salaries by category and with percentages. It also showed the difference from total salaries and salaries and category salaries.
- Mr. Scholts outlined non-salary expenditures Districtwide for the Board and the community, and provided an explanation for each category. He also presented on non-personnel operating costs, which is the same information that was just presented but shown differently, which illustrates how big our non-personnel operating costs and how much the benefits are compared to the other areas of the District's expenditures. He then provided the tax levy increase summary with the general fund, debt service and average assessed home, and also showing the average tax levy increase of \$235.44 in 2023-2024, and \$187.71 for 2024-2025.
- Dr. Furnari proceeded with a slide showing the general fund tax levy trend over twelve (12) years, from 2013-2014 to 2024-2025, and provided the Board with more information as to what had occurred over this time period. She then concluded with the Budget Calendar and upcoming dates: March 12, 2024 - Presentation for Board approval of Preliminary Budget; March 20, 2024 - Submission of Preliminary Budget to County Office; April 20, 2024 - Advertisement of Preliminary Budget; and April 30, 2024 - Public Budget Hearing for Board adoption of the budget; May 2, 2024 - Budget must be posted to District website no later than forty-eight (48) hours after Public Budget Hearing and adoption. She also stated that the user-friendly budget will be posted to the District website once the preliminary budget has been submitted to and approved by the Executive County Superintendent, and the final budget has been approved by the West Milford Board of Education.
- Board members had questions for Dr. Furnari and Mr. Scholts. They both provided responses to their inquiries.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGULATIONS

At all regular meetings, two opportunities are provided for citizens to make comments. The public comment period will be scheduled after the President's Report. The second comment period will be scheduled after New Business.

During the first opportunity for public comment, citizens are invited to comment on subjects on the agenda items only. During the second opportunity for public comment, citizens may comment on all other general topics. At the discretion of the presiding officer, public comments may be permitted at other times.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGULATIONS - Continued

Please remember this is a public meeting. Anything you say will be a public record. As a result, pursuant to law, the Board of Education cannot respond to you publicly concerning certain matters, such as those regarding an individual student or personnel. If there is a matter that you wish to remain private concerning personnel or students, please contact the Superintendent's Office. Public comment periods shall also be governed by the following rules:

1. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses.
2. Each speaker shall be limited to five minutes. The Board Secretary will note the time. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds (Bylaw 0167).
3. Comments shall be limited to issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer shall require the speaker to stop.
4. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.
5. Questions requiring investigation shall be referred by the Board to the Superintendent's Office for consideration and later response. A participant may be asked to submit such questions in written format.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)

All speakers will have five (5) minutes to speak until a period of thirty (30) minutes transpires. Before speaking, please state your name, group affiliation and address for the record. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. After speaking, all speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, group affiliation, and their address.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.

All speakers are expected to have read the statement within the agenda regarding the regulations concerning public comments.

Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Dr. Marisa Gough, 34 Center Street, West Milford. She had a question regarding the preliminary budget presentation. She appreciated how the budget process was highlighted and how it was very positive. She asked about slide #5, the current budget versus the proposed budget and where the changes are being shown from one year to the next, the negative and positive percentages, and where the cuts are being made. Categories she inquired about were facilities and school administration.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Cathryn Weiss-Connors, 37 Highview Drive, West Milford. She had a comment about the preliminary budget. She spoke about her daughter's IEP meeting where she was given a report that should have been printed in color. It was printed in black and white, which made the report look unprofessional. She is asking the Board to please consider making a color printer/copier line item in the budget so that the reports needed from the Child Study Team to convey important information on our children's growth is able to be done so properly.

Cortney Stephenson, 307 Ridge Road, West Milford. Mrs. Stephenson thanked Dr. Furnari and Mr. Scholts for a great and extensive preliminary budget report. She spoke about the highlights and about cuts from the budget, as well as the Stabilization Aid for ELA. She also spoke about security vestibules which is a big concern of hers, especially in the Elementary schools. She spoke about PCTI, and she feels we really need to work towards keeping our students here in West Milford. She stated that a new funding formula is coming and it is unknown what it will be, and if it will cut our funding more or keep it where we are. She hopes that more people can advocate for our District and help legislators understand West Milford. She encouraged the Board and the community to join the Highlander Education Foundation and become a member, and try to keep our students in West Milford.

Motion by Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mrs. Racano, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

IX. MOTION BY MRS. DWYER, SECONDED BY MRS. ROMEO, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED AND AMENDED.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

SPECIAL ACTION

X. EDUCATION - Mrs. Teresa Dwyer, Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. Dwyer, seconded by Mrs. Racano, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #6:

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Romeo inquired about items #3 and #4. Dr. Ressa responded to her inquiry and provided additional information.

1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to submit the **EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL COURSES GRANT** application for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$16,640.00.
2. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **SCHOOL YEAR SPECIAL EDUCATION OUT-OF-DISTRICT DAY SCHOOL TUITION CONTRACT**, retroactive from February 7, 2024, through June 30, 2024:

<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Placement</u>
1	\$37,925.04	Chancellor Academy
Student #: 70600		Pompton Plains, New Jersey

SPECIAL ACTION

X. EDUCATION - Mrs. Teresa Dwyer, Chairperson - Continued

3. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **addition** to the **GENERAL EDUCATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION DISTRICT CONSULTANTS, PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS/MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS, and AGENCIES**, for the 2023-2024 school year:
 - Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (New Jersey Virtual School)
4. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to accept an agreement with **MONMOUTH-OCEAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION (NEW JERSEY VIRTUAL SCHOOL)**, to provide services to student #68855, in the amount of \$3,200.00, for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve **TRAINING AND TRAVEL RELATED EXPENDITURES** for Instructional and School Support Staff at the mileage rate established by the Board. (Documentation provided electronically.)
6. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements set forth in P.L. 2010, Chapter 122, the West Milford Board of Education has received results of HIB investigative reports on **March 12, 2024**; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Milford Board of Education approves issuance of written decisions affirming, rejecting or modifying the Superintendent's determination in the following HIB investigation(s):

<u>Incident Report Number</u>	<u>Board Determination</u>
2024/M-8	Substantiated

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #6:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes*
Mr. Cytowicz	Absent	Mrs. Marquard	Absent	Mrs. Racano	Yes
Mrs. Jurgensen	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes

Mrs. Van Dyk "Abstained" on item #6.

The **MOTION PASSED**.

SPECIAL ACTION

XI. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Lynda Van Dyk, Chairperson

NOTE: All appointees recommended for employment will meet the New Jersey State law requirements for the criminal history review prior to their start date.

Motion by Mrs. Van Dyk, seconded by Mrs. Racano, to approve the following agenda items #1 through #20:

SPECIAL ACTION

XI. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lippe inquired about items #19 and #20, Girls Flag Football. He asked if the Board has received the breakdown. Dr. Furnari responded to his inquiry.

1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **DANIEL RICH**, from Custodian, Macopin School, to Assistant Head Custodian, Macopin School (PC#45.08.M3.BCK), at the annual salary of \$48,389.00, Assistant Head Custodian Stipend of \$5,213.00 (prorated), with health benefits, effective March 13, 2024, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education/WMCMA Agreement. (Replaces Bunk) Account: 11-000-262-110-10-10-000
2. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the appointment of **NOELLE RIESENMAN**, Long Term Substitute Art Teacher, Macopin School (PC#99.08.00.BJH), at the per diem rate of \$125.00 for three (3) days a week, retroactive from January 26, 2024, through March 15, 2024, then at the per diem rate of \$250.00 for three (3) days a week, effective March 19, 2024, through May 10, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Employee #5491) Account: 11-130-100-101-10-10-103

NOTE: The duration of this position is based on the date of the employee's return to work.

3. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #0957, with pay using sick days, retroactive from February 26, 2024, through April 29, 2024. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

4. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #4693, without pay, retroactive from February 15, 2024, through March 28, 2024.

5. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a leave of absence for Employee #4825, with pay using sick days, retroactive from February 27, 2024, through March 15, 2024. (Medical)

NOTE: The employee may return prior to the above date pending medical certification.

6. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT/SICK DAY PAYMENTS**, for payment March 13, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of the Board of Education negotiated agreement - Account: 11-000-291-290-10-13-000:

<u>Employee/Agreement</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Payment</u>
<u>WMEA Agreement</u>			
CLAUDIA NEY	27	\$125.00	\$3,375.00

SPECIAL ACTION

XI. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

7. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **EXTENSION** to a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **MICHELLE PAPA**, from Special Class Aide, High School, to Special Class Aide, Apshawa School, for the 2023-2024 school year, retroactive from March 4, 2024, through March 12, 2024. Account: 11-213-100-106-10-10-000
8. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **ROSEMARY JANSEN**, from Special Class Aide, High School, to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, Highlander Academy, for one (1) period a day, at an additional per diem rate of \$50.00, with health benefits, retroactive from January 22, 2024, through March 8, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Elsea) Account: 11-209-100-101-10-10-105
9. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **ROSEMARY JANSEN**, from Special Class Aide, High School, to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, Highlander Academy, at the per diem rate of \$250.00, with health benefits, retroactive from March 11, 2024, through April 9, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Heinzinger/Balietto) Account: 11-209-100-101-10-10-105
10. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a **TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF ASSIGNMENT** for **APRIL PECORARO**, from Special Class Aide, Highlander Academy, to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, Highlander Academy, for two (2) periods a day, at an additional per diem rate of \$100.00, with health benefits, effective March 13, 2024, through April 2, 2024, per Board of Education Agreement. (Replaces Heinzinger) Account: 11-209-100-101-10-10-105
11. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **INCREASE OF ASSIGNMENT** for **KAREN FLAHERTY**, Science Teacher, High School, to teach a sixth period with the addition of \$5,142.86 to her salary, with health benefits, retroactive from January 29, 2024, through June 30, 2024, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement. Account: 11-140-100-101-10-10-000

NOTE: Prorated based on staffing needs.

12. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **NURSES** for student #70723, for **AFTER-SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES** for the 2023-2024 school year, not to exceed 44 hours, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-000-213-104-10-10-645:

<u>Nurses</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
BARBARA CORBETT	\$55.64
KYLIE KLIMEK	\$44.78
MARYELISE NORRELL	\$75.07
JOANNA REILLY	\$44.00
JOYCE RILEY	\$78.92
PAMELA TAVARONE-BIESIADA	\$44.78
DAWN TETTAMANTI	\$42.85
CAROL ZUIDEMA	\$51.92

SPECIAL ACTION

XI. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

12. (Continued)

NOTE: A 1:1 nurse is required as per student's IEP. Nurses will be assigned based on availability.

13. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a payment to **JOAN DARNSTEADT**, District Substitute Nurse, in the total amount of \$3,500.00, for services rendered from April 19, 2024, through April 27, 2024, for the High School Band trip to Scotland/England.

NOTE: Funded by students through the overall trip cost.

14. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a payment to **JOYCE RILEY**, District Nurse, in the total amount of \$200.00, for services rendered from March 21, 2024, through March 22, 2024, for the Macopin School 7th Grade Field Trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

NOTE: Funded by students through the overall trip cost.

15. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve a payment to **PAMELA TAVARONE-BIESIADA**, District Nurse, in the total amount of \$810.00, for services rendered retroactive from February 16, 2024, through February 19, 2024, for the High School National Cheerleading Championship Competition trip to Wildwood, New Jersey. Account: 11-401-100-110-10-000

NOTE: Funded by students through the overall trip cost.

16. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve an **ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT** for the following staff for **EXTENDED FIELD TRIP HOURS**, at a total stipend of \$75.00, for the 2023-2024 school year. Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>School</u>
PAUL CHIESA	Upper Greenwood Lake
KATHRYN ENERING	Upper Greenwood Lake
HOLLIE MILLER	Upper Greenwood Lake
JENELLE PEINE	Upper Greenwood Lake
KRISTA YUHAS	Upper Greenwood Lake
DAWN TETTAMANTI	Upper Greenwood Lake

17. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve **an amendment to a previously approved resolution (January 2024)** to the **FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT, ADVISORS, and HOURS, retroactive from February 28, 2024**, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 20-231-100-101-10-50-XXX - ESEA Title I Grant:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
JODIE COMUNE	Maple Road	5	\$185.00
JAMIE HOLLIICK	Maple Road	5	\$185.00
TRICIA GRANEY	Maple Road	4	\$148.00
JAIME KETTNER	Maple Road	4	\$148.00

SPECIAL ACTION

XI. PERSONNEL/STUDENT AFFAIRS - Mrs. Van Dyk, Chairperson - Continued

17. (Continued)

<u>Employee</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Payment</u>
DANIELLA PRESTON	Maple Road	2	\$ 74.00
HOLLY STANLEY	Maple Road	4	\$148.00
KELLY YOST	Maple Road	2	\$ 74.00

NOTE: Funded through ESEA Title I Grant. Yost replaces Preston

18. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following High School students as **AUDIO VISUAL/LIGHTING TECHNICIANS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at an hourly rate not to exceed \$15.13 - Account: 11-000-262-300-17-17-000:

EMILY BIESIADA	ZOE LISBONA
KAYLA FILIPOWICZ	AIDAN LONGACRE
JILENA HASS	JOSEPH MONTALBANO
HAILEY KAPRAL	RILEIGH SLUFIK
MADELINE KEATES	DONALD STINZIANO

19. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITY CLUB, ADVISOR, and HOURS** for the 2023-2024 school year, at the hourly rate of \$37.00, per Board of Education/WMEA Agreement - Account: 11-401-100-110-10-10-000:

<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Hours</u>
MATTHEW KEYZER	Girls Flag Football	120

20. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following **VOLUNTEERS** for the 2023-2024 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
KYLIE KLIMEK	High School	Girls Flag Football
SARAH WARD	High School	Band

ROLL CALL FOR ITEMS #1 THROUGH #20:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Dwyer	Yes	Mr. Lippe	Yes
Mrs. Marquard	Absent	Mrs. Romeo	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent
Mrs. Jurgensen	Yes	Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

SPECIAL ACTION

XII. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Peter Lippe, Chairperson

Motion by Mr. Lippe, seconded by Mrs. Jurgensen, to approve the following agenda item #1:

SPECIAL ACTION

XII. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Lippe, Chairperson - Continued

- 1. The recommendation of the Interim Superintendent to approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Milford Township Board of Education, County of Passaic, that the **2024-2025 DISTRICT PRELIMINARY BUDGET** be approved as follows:

General Fund	\$75,118,929
Special Revenue	\$ 1,186,286
Debt Service	<u>\$ 616,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$76,921,215

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **GENERAL FUND AND DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVIES** be approved to support the 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget:

General Fund	\$64,322,721
Debt Service	<u>\$ 406,560</u>
TOTAL	\$64,729,281

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in the budget line 100, Local Tax Levy, is the utilization of banked cap in the amount of \$128,539 to meet budgetary requirements for the 2024-2025 school year. These funds are needed to maintain our current academic programs and remain in compliance with local and state required programs, and to meet students' academic goals in the current inflationary environment. The implementation of this need must be completed by the end of 2024-2025 budget year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in the budget line 100, Local Tax Levy, is the utilization of an adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$562,769. The additional funds will be used to pay for increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve for Other Capital Projects is \$450,000, to be used towards the Upper Greenwood Lake School window and front door replacement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that included in budget line 630, Budgeted Withdrawal from Maintenance Reserve for Budgeted Required Maintenance is \$150,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, in each pre-budget year, the West Milford Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year which may not be exceeded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by Federal, State and local funds.

SPECIAL ACTION

XII. OPERATIONS & FINANCE - Mr. Lippe, Chairperson - Continued

1. (Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education had previously established a maximum amount for the pre-budget year 2023-2024 as \$137,965.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education has expended \$28,981 of the maximum amount for the pre-budget year to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Milford Board of Education hereby establish the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year as \$126,755.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Education approved "tentative" budget is being presented for advertising prior to Executive County Superintendent approval. The budget will be approved by the Executive County Superintendent prior to the public hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the budget is in conformity with regulations promulgated by the Department of Education and the Board of Education has submitted supporting documents to the state for maximum professional services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to make any adjustments to the budget submission to bring it in conformity with state regulations. Adjustments will be reviewed and approved by the Board at the Public Budget Hearing.

ROLL CALL FOR ITEM #1:

TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE	TRUSTEE	VOTE
Mr. Lippe	Yes	Mrs. Marquard	Absent	Mrs. Dwyer	Abstain
Mrs. Jurgensen	Yes	Mrs. Romeo	Yes	Mr. Cytowicz	Absent
Mrs. Racano	Yes	Mrs. Van Dyk	Yes	Mrs. Lockwood	Yes

The **MOTION PASSED.**

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PLEASE SIGN IN)

All speakers will have five (5) minutes to speak until a period of thirty (30) minutes transpires. Before speaking, please state your name, group affiliation and address for the record. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. After speaking, all speakers are asked to sign the register provided and give their full name, group affiliation, and their address.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No participant may address or question Board members individually.

All speakers are expected to have read the statement within the agenda regarding the regulations concerning public comments.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Continued

Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

Dr. Marisa Gough, 34 Center Street, West Milford. She had a question regarding the professional development date on Monday, March 18th, and asked for clarification in regards to iReady. She stated that it is not just with her child, but she has been noticing it with a few parents that have been coming to her and to other friends, family, teachers, staff, or whatever it may be, that some of the students are struggling with iReady, and she knows they are adjusting. She spoke about her daughter's experience with iReady and the positive and negative aspects of it, as well as her frustrations at not being tested at the appropriate grade level. Dr. Gough indicated that her daughter's teacher was looking into this for her. She would like confirmation that our District and our teachers have the capability to go in and see not only the diagnostics, but be able to go in and change the testing levels appropriately. She also asked who will be coming in to do the professional development on March 18th, and how can the teachers have discussion to make sure iReady is successful.

Motion by Mrs. Romeo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, to close Public Comment.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board determined there was no need for Executive Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Romeo, seconded by Mrs. Dwyer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: All in Favor. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

**William Scholts
Board Secretary**