

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING
JULY 17, 2024
JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS CENTER AUDITORIUM

An Official Meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education was held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by Board President, Giuseppe Palmeri, at 5:04 p.m. on July 17, 2024.

Present: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. D. Baginski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. R. Rotante, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. L. Godlesky, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. M. Zitomer, Board Attorney; and Ms. C. Morris, State Appointed Monitor.

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education opened the Executive Session to discuss contracts; employment of personnel-terms and conditions of employment; pending litigation; investigations, and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege with respect to these subjects. This meeting was not open to the public. The Board would reconvene at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Jackson Memorial High School Fine Arts Auditorium at which time action would be taken.

Exec
Session

The Official Meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education reconvened in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by Board President, Giuseppe Palmeri, at 6:25 p.m.

Recon-
vene

Present: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. R. Rotante, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. L. Godlesky, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. D. Baginski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. M. Zitomer, Board Attorney, C. Morris, State Appointed Monitor.

After the salute to the flag and the Certification of the meeting according to the tenets of the Open Public Meeting Law, the Board President made the following statement:

“This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and has been duly advertised in the newspaper as an Official Meeting.”

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the agenda with addendum as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools.

Approv
Agenda


Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED


SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Pormilli welcomed everyone. She noted the district received two grant funded electric garbage trucks. She highlight some things happening this summer - our extended school year program works on strengthening academic skills and social emotional skills, some high school students are attending a NJPA summer tutoring program to assist them in strengthening skills to pass the NJ graduation proficient assessment. We have self- sustaining camps that run on tuition for child care school and a Digital Media Academy Academy Camp. Our administrative team are busy this week reviewing data, setting goals and planning for September.


She turned the meeting over to Dr. Godlesky to present, as required by law, the following slides on our NJ Graduation Proficiency Scores and our Multiple Language Learners Access Scores.



New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment
(NJGPA)



NJGPA Results:
Jackson School District
Spring 2024 Administration
July 17, 2024



NJGPA Overview (1 of 2)

- Statute requires the State graduation proficiency assessment to **administered to all grade 11 students.** (N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6)
- NJGPA is designed to measure the extent to which students are graduation ready in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.
- Graduation readiness is reported separately for each content component.
- The ELA component is aligned to the grade 10 standards.
- The Mathematics component is aligned to Algebra I and Geometry standards.

NJGPA Overview (2 of 2)

- On May 3, 2023, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted the proficiency level cut score for the English language Arts (ELA) and mathematics components of the NJGPA, as well as the menu of alternative assessments and aligned cut scores.
- Students who take but do not meet the minimum required score on each component of the assessment will have the opportunity to receive additional supports and may take the following steps:
 - Retake the ELA and/or mathematics components of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in the following fall;
 - Meet a designated cut score from the menu of substitute competency tests; or
 - Complete a portfolio appeal.

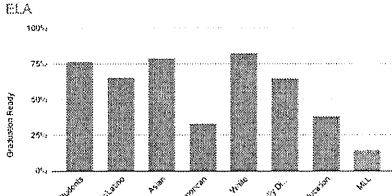
NJGPA English Language Arts Outcomes
Year-to-Year Comparisons

ELA Component	Graduation Ready 2021-2022	Graduation Ready 2022-2023	Graduation Ready 2023-2024 (passing score 750)	Change from Previous Year
Jackson School District	30%	81%	77%	-4.0 %
State	39.4%	80.5%	81.6%	+1.1 %
Jackson Liberty High School	35%	77%	76.7%	- 0.3 %
Jackson Memorial High School	24%	84%	78%	-6.0 %

NJGPA Mathematics Outcomes
Year-to-Year Comparisons

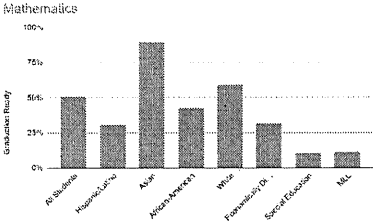
Mathematics Component	Graduation Ready 2021-2022	Graduation Ready 2022-2023	Graduation Ready 2023-2024 (passing score 750)	Change from Previous Year
Jackson School District	49.9%	50.8%	51%	+ 0.2 %
State	49.5%	55%	54.7%	- 0.3 %
Jackson Liberty High School	40%	42%	36%	- 6 %
Jackson Memorial High School	58%	57%	61%	+4 %

NJ GPA Literacy - Subgroups



**The American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander subgroups and those identifying as two or more races could not be reported due to low n-size

NJ GPA Mathematics - Subgroups



**The American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander subgroups and those identifying as two or more races could not be reported due to low n-size

Response to Data / Interventions-
Mathematics

- Implementation of new mathematics resources 6-12 which provide rigorous, differentiated, and highly engaging resources
 - Ed Gems (grades 6-8)
 - Savvas Envisions (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)
- Math Specific Professional Development
 - Dr. Milton - Rowan University
 - Paul Ricomini, Penn State University
 - Ed Gems Training
 - Savvas/Envision Training
- Implementation of an intensive summer program to address students that are in danger of performing below grade level standards and are in danger of not being deemed "Graduation Ready" for the 24-25 school year
- Creation of a fall semester course to support students in danger of not being deemed "Graduation Ready" by the NJGPA
- Implementation of LinkIt benchmarks for mathematics to be utilized in tailoring instruction to meet student needs and identify gaps as well as deficiencies in learning
- Increased utilization of Common Lunch for extra help

Response to Data / Interventions- English
Language Arts

- Professional Development
 - Meeting the needs of MLLs in the classroom
 - Increased focus on non-fiction reading in SS/Science Classrooms (Companion Standards)
 - Use of data to create a differentiated learning approach
 - Use of IXL in Grade 9 to provide differentiated skill based practice and instruction
- Implementation of an intensive summer program in ELA to address students that are in danger of performing below grade level standards and are in danger of not being deemed "Graduation Ready" for the 24-25 school year
- Implementation of LinkIt benchmarks for English/Language Arts to be utilized in tailoring instruction to meet student needs and identify gaps as well as deficiencies in learning
- Increased utilization of Common Lunch for extra help

Next steps...

- Student scores are currently in Genesis and can be accessed in the Parent Portal
- Individual Student Detailed Score Reports will be sent home with all Seniors in September
- Students who did not qualify as 'graduation ready' will have opportunities for additional assessments / pathways to fulfilling the graduation requirement

Assessing Comprehension and Communication
in English State-to-State (ACCESS)



ACCESS for MLLs Results:
Jackson School District
2024 Administration
Presented on July 17, 2024

ACCESS for MLLs Overview

- Administered to Kindergarten through Grade 12 students who have been identified as Multilingual Learners (MLLs)
- Is given annually to monitor students' progress in learning academic English
- Scores reflect proficiency from Level 1 (Entering) to Level 6 (Reaching)
- Is anchored in the WIDA English Language Development Standards
- Assesses the four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, & Writing
- Educators use ACCESS results, along with other WIDA resources, to make decisions about students' English academic language and to facilitate their language development


Access for MLLs Overview

- Students are tested in four domains, but receive a composite score with is comprised of the following:
 - Oral Language (Speaking)
 - Literacy (Reading and Writing)
 - Comprehension (Listening)
- Students are rated as Entering, Emerging, Developing, Expanding, Bridging, and Reaching
- While scores can be compared across domains, they should not be compared across grade levels as the level of rigor that the student is exposed to is far greater as they move up into higher grades
- Oral proficiency takes 3-5 years to develop and academic English proficiency can take 4-7 years

ACCESS District Data

2024 ACCESS Proficiency Levels (Students Exit with a score of 4.5 and above)														
WIDA Level	Gr K	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	
Entering	1	68%	38%	18%	19%	15%	23%	31%	30%	37%	47%	25%	44%	36%
Emerging	2	17%	32%	28%	29%	21%	28%	26%	28%	26%	14%	28%	22%	36%
Developing	3	7%	28%	45%	48%	35%	30%	33%	37%	23%	35%	33%	31%	25%
Expanding	4	9%	2%	9%	4%	27%	13%	10%	4%	6%	4%	8%	3%	4%
Bridging	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Reaching	6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
# Students Tested		90	88	78	77	75	40	42	46	35	40	36	36	28

Response to Data / Next Steps



The Jackson School District has continued to respond to the growing number of MLLs in our schools by:

- hiring ESL endorsed teachers
- creating responsive curriculum documents
- professional development to better understand the WIDA Can-Do Indicators to meet the needs of their students
- training staff on Sheltered English Instruction (SEI)
- maintaining parent liaisons in each building
- growing parent engagement opportunities to strengthen the home/school connection



Dr. Godlesky opened the floor to questions.

Dr. Osmond asked how the common lunch will be better utilized than it is today. Will there be a benchmark if you didn't do something required? Dr. Godlesky stated she met with the high school principals and a core group of volunteers from the high school to discuss how to better utilize that time, how to ensure struggling students are going for extra help, putting in accountability measures and dividing the time. The principals need time to create their plan and send it out to their staff before she goes into too much detail.

Mrs. Gardella asked if part of the action plan for the Multilingual Learners takes class size into consideration. Dr. Godlesky stated MLL have a pullout ESL period and they're also supported in the class. Class size does have an impact but they're not placed in smaller classes but their pullout period may be smaller depending on how many students are in need that period.

Dr. Osmond asked if there will be a benchmark and if a student doesn't meet that benchmark then is there going to be a requirement that they get extra help during common lunch. Dr. Godlesky stated the teachers are providing extra help in the content that they're teaching. If students are not doing well in class, the student will be accountable and must go in for extra help. This need for extra help will be communicated to parents.

Mr. Palmeri noted the difference in Memorial's and Liberty's mathematic proficiency. He asked what additional resources we can provide Liberty, who is struggling, to help them in the mathematics proficiency. Dr. Godlesky stated these data points were a significant part of Liberty qualifying for targeted title assistance funding so their plan will be different than Memorial's plan. This plan hasn't been finalized for next year some but it will include a teacher leader model in Liberty.

Mrs. Gardella asked if that means we qualified for additional Grant funding which we did not have prior. Dr. Godlesky said that is correct. More information about the plan will be given at the August meeting. Mr. Palmeri confirmed that when the plan is finalized the Board will see this plan and the additional resources allocated to to Liberty. Dr. Godlesky confirmed this.


Mrs. Pormilli stated we are spending a lot of time addressing how we can continue to improve and strengthen those scores.

Mrs. Pormilli stated tonight is the public hearing on the 2024-25 proposed budget. She reiterated this is not a budget we want to present or agree with but it is a budget that we need to balance in order to continue to operate and move forward for the 2024-25 school year. These are painful cuts we have tried to avoid through advocating with all decision makers at the state level. We worked hard over the seven years to avoid affecting our students by being creative and seeking grants. The 2024-25 budget cannot operate and balance without affecting students. We'll continue to advocate. News12 filmed at our meeting last month and provided Mr. Palmeri and Mrs. Pormilli the opportunity to record a question for their 'Ask the Governor' segment the following day and it was aired. The Governor's response was that he would have the Commissioner of Education reach out to us and he did contact Mr. Palmeri. She turned the floor to Mr Palmeri to share the information regarding his conversation with the Commissioner.

Mr. Palmeri stated during his interview with News12, he voiced concerns about the district's lack of funding and requested the Governor restore funding. The Governor responded he did not have Jackson's data in front of him, he would have the Commissioner of Education, Mr. Dehmer, contact us. Mr. Dehmer called Mr. Palmeri the next day and was provided an overview of the events related to S2 over the past seven years and it's negative impact on our district. He did not make any commitments but was understanding and agreed to work together. An invitation to visit our district was extended and he agreed to the offer. While pleasant, no solution to better our district was offered. The Board recognized the need for further action and will pursue every opportunity for fair funding. Tonight in executive session the Board authorized our board attorney to take appropriate legal action against the Department of Education to obtain funding and/or state aid advance that is required for us to provide an efficient education. We hope this can be avoided but are not hopeful given the prior course of events. The audience applauded this statement.

Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slides regarding the Balanced Budget:

2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET



Jackson School District
Proposed Budget Presentation
July 17, 2024

Purpose of Tonight

- Overview of budget challenges
- Present Proposed Budget, discuss impact of cuts and changes since Tentative Budget
- Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
- Board of Education vote Proposed Budget

Understanding Our Funding Crisis

Over the past 7 years, this district has been devastated by the loss of **HALF OF OUR STATE AID**

- We have cut the budget in every area - including curriculum, activities and athletics...
- AND postponed needed facilities improvements...
- AND cut 242 positions - including administration, certified and non-certified staff...
- AND increased class size...

State Aid Cuts

2018-2019 = \$1.3 million

2019-2020 = \$2.3 million

2020-2021 = \$3.5 million

2021-2022 = \$4.3 million

2022-2023 = \$4.6 million

2023-2024 = \$2.1 million

2024-2025 = \$2.4 million

Jackson School District has been in the TOP TEN of "The State's Biggest Losers" by Total Aid Reduction

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Jersey City	Jersey City	Jersey City	Jersey City	Jersey City	Jersey City	Long Branch City
Crawford	Freehold Regional	Freehold Regional	Toms River Reg	Ashbury Park City	Toms River Reg	Cheery Hill Twp
Lakewood Twp	Ashbury Park City	Toms River Reg	Freehold Regional	Norburne Twp	Ashbury Park City	Garage Regional
Pemberton Twp	Toms River Reg	Ashbury Park City	Ashbury Park City	Snick Twp	Freehold Regional	Hickson Twp
Ashbury Park City	Rick Twp	Rick Twp	Old Bridge Twp	Salinas Twp	Jerkins Twp	Norburne Twp
Freehold Regional	Pemberton Twp	Old Bridge Twp	Rick Twp	Toms River Reg	Benjamin Twp	Ashbury Park City
Snick Twp	Jackson Twp	Jackson Twp	Norburne Twp	Pemberton Twp	Snick Twp	Snick Twp
Toms River Reg	Old Bridge Twp	Norburne Twp	Ashbury Park City	Freehold Regional	Snick Twp	Snick Twp
Commercial Twp	Howell Twp	Howell Twp	Howell Twp	Old Bridge Twp	Snick Twp	Snick Twp
Jackson Twp	Howell Twp	Howell Twp	Howell Twp	Old Bridge Twp	Snick Twp	Snick Twp

History of Cuts and Budget Development - March through July

Key Budget Event	Actions to Reduce Deficit	Budget Deficit
March 20, 2024 - Tentative Budget	Sought financial assistance from the state in order to not unravel our district	\$30,940,062
May 7, 2024 - Proposed Budget Hearing	• \$4.2 million in reductions by eliminating 27 staff positions, combining some athletic teams; township taking on full cost of SROs; reducing overtime, subs & supplies	\$26,682,344
May 14, 2024 - State Law A4161	• A4161 Restored 45% of original aid cut - \$4.4 million cut is now \$2.4 million cut	\$24,675,448
June 26 New Balanced Tentative Budget	• Large, systemic cuts and utilizing one-time tax levy increase = additional \$6,522,753 (allowed by A4161)	\$18,151,695 (includes tax levy increase of 9.9%)
July 2024	• New line item in NJ State Budget appropriates \$2.5 million to Jackson School District	NEW development - see later slide

What is Happening

- We had hoped - and fought for - the ability to present a 2024-2025 budget that featured assistance from the NJDOE so that we did not need to unravel our district.
- We advocated, pleaded, submitted to countless reviews, and provided miles of figures, data and logic to support our requests.
- Still, the NJDOE has told us that we **MUST** submit a balanced budget and that the state has "no mechanism to assist us" without a balanced budget.
- Unfortunately, we have exhausted our most recent rounds of negotiations, pleas, and advocacy and are being compelled to take some painful steps to be able to operate for the coming school year.
- This means the district administration **MUST** submit a balanced budget to the Board of Education for a vote.
- **If we do not submit a balanced budget for a vote - the district will not be permitted to operate in September.**

How do we submit a Balanced Budget in the Face of an \$18 million deficit?

By making unthinkable cuts, namely:

- The closing and preparing for sale of Rosenauer Elementary School
 - Will provide the profits of a sale, and savings of operating, energy, and maintenance budgets.
 - More information on a later slide
- Cutting 70 positions in all areas, including administration; cuts to teachers will result in increased class size districtwide. NOTE: The vast majority of these cut positions will be accomplished through attrition (i.e. not rehiring for a position when someone resigns or retires)

How do we submit a Balanced Budget in the Face of an \$18 million deficit?

- Reducing the High School Athletics budget - we are reducing assistant coaches in some sports to avoid cutting full sports programs
- Drastic reductions to school and department supply and services budgets
- Reducing substitutes by reducing the number of permanent, building-based substitutes (only direct, daily coverage will be permitted)
- Eliminating all late buses districtwide
- Eliminating the middle school holding center (supervision for students staying after school for help or activities and waiting for a late bus)
- Eliminating after-school enrichment programs districtwide
- Reductions to budgets for event staff, homebound instruction
- Cuts to co-curriculars described in the Tentative Budget are not necessary, as we are able to utilize grant funds to support three large activities at each HS

REGARDING COURTESY BUSING

- In order to close the full \$18 million budget deficit, the TENTATIVE BUDGET presented June 26 included the elimination of Courtesy Busing throughout the district
- HOWEVER - new funds were appropriated to Jackson School District in NJ State Budget = \$2.5 million
- We are the only school in Ocean County to receive this appropriation, made just prior to the budget being approved.
- We intend to use these funds to **KEEP COURTESY BUSING** in place for 2024-2025 school year
- We are working with the township on infrastructure improvements to minimize the impact of changes to courtesy busing for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

Courtesy busing refers to students who live within a designated distance (2 miles for elem. and middle and 2.5 miles for HS) being transported "courtesy" by the district

For example:
Students who live less than 2 miles from Swiflik, but who would need to walk along Bennetts Mills Road to get to school.

Why is it necessary to sell Rosenauer

- Closing an \$18 million budget deficit requires broad and painful actions
- The budget must be balanced - or we will not be able to operate next year
- The sale of Rosenauer will provide a large portion of the funds we need to balance the budget
- If we did not present this option - the cuts we would need to make district wide would be deeper than we could withstand

Regarding the sale of the property:

- Will begin the process of closing the school and getting it ready for sale
 - The process has not yet begun - will begin AFTER the budget is finalized
 - Must submit documentation to NJDOE to begin process
 - We will seek to expedite approvals to access proceeds from sale during the 2024-2025 school year

Next Steps for Rosenauer

- Staff have been notified of their new assignments. Some are going to Crawford-Rodriguez and some are being assigned to other schools based on students' needs and staff certifications.
- All Rosenauer students in Grades K-5 are being reassigned to Crawford-Rodriguez
- We are finalizing Rosenauer preschool assignments and will notify parents as soon as possible
- Will be reaching out to families and staff to create an opportunity for current staff/students and alumni to come together to honor their time at Rosenauer

Next Steps for the District

- Public hearing on Proposed Budget tonight
- BOE votes on Proposed Budget
- If the Board rejects the Proposed Budget, the NJDOE (through the county office and state monitor) will step in to ensure a balanced budget is achieved.
- The county office could approve the plan as it was presented to the BOE or could make other recommendations to achieve a balanced budget in order to comply with the state budget deadline of Monday, July 22.
- Continue to advocate for the students of Jackson to all decision makers

Mrs. Pormilli turned meeting over to Mr. Baginski who presented the following slides regarding the Budget:

2024-2025 Proposed Budget


	2023-2024 Approved Budget	2024-2025 Proposed Budget	Change from Previous Year	% Change
Local Revenue	\$12,612,000	\$14,315,779	\$1,703,779	13.51%
General Fund Tax Levy	\$ 93,274,419	\$102,508,586	\$9,234,167	9.90%
State Aid	\$ 31,876,196	\$27,285,490	-\$4,590,706	-14.40%
State Aid Loan	\$6,000,000	\$0	-\$6,000,000	-100%
Total General Fund	\$143,762,615	\$144,109,855	\$347,240	0.24%
Federal/ State Programs	\$ 17,310,717	\$ 13,147,421	-\$4,163,296	-24.05%
Total Debt	\$ 8,433,500	\$ 8,432,300	-\$1,200	-0.01%
Total Budget	\$169,506,832	\$165,689,576	-\$3,817,256	-2.25%

What the 2024-2025 budget will mean for taxpayers?

- 0.0498-cent increase to School Tax Rate
- 2025 Proposed Budget School Tax Rate = \$1.4701 per \$100 of assessed home value
- Average home in Jackson is assessed at \$330,688
- \$146 increase for the average homeowner for one year

The net taxable valuations comes from the Township.

Mr. Baginski turned meeting back to Mrs. Pormilli who presented the following slides regarding the Budget:

<p>Closing</p> <p>We have been through difficult times during the last few years but have always pulled together to protect our students' education and experiences.</p> <p>We can get through this difficult time by supporting one another so that our district remains a strong place for learning and connections.</p>	 <p>Welcome to the Jackson Board of Education Meeting</p> <p>Would You Like to Be Heard During the Public Forum?</p> <p>When the public forum is announced, please come to the microphone and write your name down before speaking.</p>
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Mrs. Pormilli open the floor to the Board for questions.

Mrs. Gardella - The NJ DOE is a part of the Rosenauer sale process, what can we anticipate? Are they going to look at the fact that we have children in trailers? Could they say that we have to use that revenue for specific items? What should we prepare for?

Mrs. Pormilli stated we need to submit a letter of approval to the Department of Education to close the school. In that letter, we are informing them that we have students in trailers. Mr. Baginski commented all of the temporary construction units (trailers) are approved on an annual basis by the county office. Ours are mostly from 1998 so this temporary construction has been approved on an annual basis for over 20 years. She came to visit the trailers herself because we shouldn't be approving temporary construction units for that long without a definitive plan to not continue to have students in them. We can't stop using them we need them right now in terms of capacity.

Mrs. Gardella asked is there a chance that they're going to say the revenue from the Rosenauer sale needs to be utilized for what they say and not necessarily what Jackson Administration wants it budgeted for?

Mrs. Pormilli stated she can only guess that she doesn't see them telling us how we should be spending that money. It's more about having a balanced budget. We do have oversight from the DOE in our district right now so there can be those types of conversations. The sale of Rosenauer is a lengthy process and there is a strong chance that we may not have any revenue for the 2024-25 budget putting us into the red.

Mrs. Gardella asked if the Department of Education will give us enough time to determine the next steps or they make us wait again?

Mrs. Pormilli based on the experience we just went through, she said it is going to be requirement for us to submit another cash flow document to them so she anticipates that would probably be the same process. She is unsure what it would be for the following year -she thinks it is going to be dependent on them.

Mr. Palmeri asked, before it went on the budget, if it was discussed with our state monitor, the county and the Department of Education that the Rosenauer sale is a shortsighted fix, a one time revenue boost and next year we will still need to come up with that additional revenue. Does the short term outweigh the long term?

Mrs. Pormilli stated yes it was made clear to Mrs. Morris, our County BA and the County Interm Superintendent.

Mr. Palmeri asked if they all agreed this school should go up for sale for the one-time revenue. Mrs. Pormilli stated yes they agreed.

Dr. Osmond stated most of the items are short term fixes. She asked if the State giving any guidance to Administration on how to look at it long term because there is nothing here that is going to help you in the future? How is the Sstate communicating what it want schools to ultimately do.

Mrs. Pormilli couldn't speak to what the State is thinking we should do. She reiterated these are all one time fixes. She is appreciative of the \$2.5 million that we just got and that we can use it to restore courtesy busing but it's a one-time fix. The district needs to do major strategic planning to use all the resources we have to the most efficiency. We have to create every opportunity to sustain our district knowing that there are no other major revenue sources coming our way. The only district options are to go out to the voter for a special question to bring in more revenue or through our tax levy which will go back to a 2% cap for the following year. She doesn't agree with these things - it is what has been told to us.

Dr. Osmond wondered, in regard special questions, if there is a cap on how many special questions you can have.

Mr. Palmeri was happy to hear that we're using some of that \$2.5 million for to restore courtesy busing I think that's very important but we're not restoring the late busing. A lot of students stay after school for sports or extracurricular and parents work and that's their only way home. Are we able to also restore the late busing with the courtesy busing with that \$2.5 million?

Mrs. Pormilli said at this moment no. She needs to take a deeper look and see what it can cover. She said, we won't stop just because this budget and we've cut some things. We're always creative and looking at other ways we can fund things. We are looking at the late bus issue right now and looking at other sources of revenue, specifically grants, to see if we can fund it that way.

Mr. McCarron asked Mrs. Morris where do we go from here? How do you get our district out of not having proper funding since you vetoed everything we did last meeting? What's your plan for our budget moving forward?

Mrs. Morris stated since appointed here in January she is doing a complete review of the district. She stated legislation is the only way to get the district out of this situation. One would be legislation dedicated to a district like Jackson with problems as a result of the funding and the other is a tax increase. In NJ budgeting, the district's fair share means there is a formula imposed to determine how much taxpayer money should be available to finance and support the schools. Jackson is under \$20-24 million its fair share without this this new tax increase. In order to do a tax increase, a public question has to go to the voter in the form of a resolution or referendum. Special tax questions are one-year fixes. For example, if the question of courtesy busing comes up again next year that may have to go out as an individual question and people will vote. There are limited ways any District can bring money into the revenue side of the budget. Jackson does not have a spending issue – it has a revenue issue and that makes it extremely difficult. They have been working hard to look at every aspect but it may require the district go to the Department of Education in a formal

way and say this is what we need to continue to operate because we are in a critical situation because of lack of revenue not misspending. There is not the revenue coming in that should be either through the funding imposed nor the fair share of taxes that have been paid.

Mr. McCarron stated we took a loan and went to the Department of Education saying we need money and it's gone on deaf ears. Now we are going to raise the taxes and keep raising the taxes. It's not fair for the Jackson residents who maybe can't afford higher taxes.

Mrs. Morris said we were heard because we received a loan for 2023-24. The district received the \$7 million needed to finish the 2023- 24 school year without going into deficit. She doesn't know whether or not that's something that's going to have to be done again this year but that is open as an option along with the individual question to the voters. Mr. Palmeri talking to the commissioner and Mrs. Morris talking with two assistant Commissioners in the Trenton finance department shows it is not going on deaf ears. The problem is trying to find the right legal and appropriate solution to get Jackson out of this hole.

Mrs. Gardella asked Mrs. Morris if the idea of having the length of our budget be set for multiple years is possible.

Mrs. Morris stated legally 12 months is currently the time frame however it is a good suggestion. Mrs. Pormilli may address a strategic plan addressing more than one year. There are a number of things that have to be done along with that but this takes time. Mrs. Morris thinks you may need a broad plan that covers a number of years so you know where you're going.

Dr. Osmond stated, looking at data of what Jackson should be getting according to the grid versus what we are getting, we are clearly not getting what we should be getting. So if making a multi-year plan, don't you need transparent data because if we're using the data we're getting from the governor's office and then it's totally off by millions of dollars, how do you make a plan if data is not transparent?

Mrs. Morris didn't understand the question so, Mr. Baginski clarified that Dr. Osmond is referring to the state adequacy budget report and how we're \$24 million below adequate. Our transportation aid should be \$7.2 million and we only receive \$650,000 – that is the gap Dr. Osmond is referring to. We have no mechanism to close the gap without a special question. So with no revenue opportunity, how do you budget?

Mrs. Morris said it is difficult dealing with a formula that that comes directly from the Department of Education and is approved year to year. The state also budgets year to year and that is an issue itself - not budgeting out to districts for more than one year. Mrs. Morris can only communicate that as being one of the problems here. No one in the Department of Education wants to see these problems in Jackson. Having a monitor is a good thing because a monitor can understand your problems and communicate them to the people that need to hear them. S2 is coming to an end and something is going to have to replace it. That may be when some things can be corrected.

Mrs. Pormilli commented she heard word through the commissioner's office that they recognize there have been some school districts that have been affected greatly. A committee was put together to review the formula to make some tweaks to the formula for districts have been significantly hurt. This is not a promise but is promising. It did recognize there are some districts that the formula did not work for. Some districts had a unique circumstances that weren't considered in that formula. Mrs. Pormilli believes Mrs. Morris has communicated their conversations to the Department of Ed.

Mr. Palmeri summed it up. The Department of Education reduced our state aid by about \$23 million. The Department of Education sent an adequacy report stating Jackson is \$23 million underfunded. We have a revenue problem that's essentially caused by the State. Mrs. Morris said Jackson has to find a legal way out of the hole. Jackson is paying its fair share but most of it is being repurposed to other districts. It is absurd that the State tells us to raise our taxes to pay our fair share when we already paid it.

No further question, Mrs. Pormilli turned the meeting back to Mr. Pormilli

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the public forum on 2024-25 budget items only was opened by acclamation.

Mr. Palmeri made the following statement: "Please state your name and whether or not you are a Jackson resident. Each person has five minutes to speak. No person may speak more than once on a topic until all others have been heard."

John Spaltoff – Residnet & Parent – The swim team barely could compete because of no busing. Our unique situation needs to be communicated to Trenton. Aid in lieu payments for non-public students to get busing is a concern and needs to be communicated to Trenton – we are spending millions to bus private school students while taking away after school busing for our public school students. Town infrastructure is never going to be in place next year. Bilingual demographic also changed but is an expense.

Isaac Elsner – Former student – Jackson is not getting its fair share. The state's cutting the funding by so much and the closure of Rosenauer may not be done during the school year so we may still be in deficit. He expressed concern about the budget and the new formula that could be replacing S2. Continuing to close schools is not a viable option. He is concerned about overcrowd schools -is there a limit the number of students in a school? If funding I restored, will have to build new school? Schools are not supposed to make revenue.

Deb Jones – Resident and Para - Commented to Mrs. Morris that she respects her and what she's here to do but we need the advance in the state aid because of the horrendous cuts the State has forced on our district - she begged her to beg the state to help us by giving us the funding that we deserve. We're not asking for anything that we shouldn't be getting. She is not happy about our taxes increasing. She is happy all the Rosenauer kids will go to Crawford. She is concerned about what happens next year and that our schools are becoming overcrowded.

Jon Myers – He is happy about the district looking into suing the state but is concerned about the amount of time that will take, historically, it could take a decade to see results. He is concerned about class sizes - 30 40 kids to a class doesn't seem possible. He understands there are protocols but he feels if we know something isn't right we shouldn't do it. He questioned what would happen if we just don't vote on it - if there is no vote than Mrs. Morris can't overrule it.

Julian Mignone – Jackson graduate – He wrote a college paper about S2 and how drastic it was for our district and how we're looking for a solution when there seems to be no metric to where the money is coming from or going. The changes to S2 next year are unclear. Raising taxes makes no sense. Our town put up a special question last fall it got rejected - raising the taxes is only a temporary fix the situation. Putting more students in a classroom is a concern. He asked Mrs. Morris to listen to our Board and make the decision to follow the Board's decision. Ocean County's struggling districts needs to work together to fix this.

Nino Borrelli – Resident and Jackson Township Councilman – The Council and Mayor support efforts of the Board, Superintendent and Assemblyman Sauickie regarding parental rights. He asked the State to advocate for Jackson students and taxpayers - Jackson residents cannot afford a tax increase because of a problem the State created by not adequately providing aid to our public schools. Jackson doesn’t have a spending problem; we have a revenue problem due to the seven years of state aid cuts. He noted many cuts were made and school buildings are unable to be maintained. The subject matters kids learn from their teachers and coaches stay with them for a lifetime - they need them. He stated our kids education should be a bipartisan issue and a priority. He asked the government to stop defunding our schools and fairly and equitably return state aid to our public schools. He noted we pay more in to Trenton than what we get back - the school funding formula needs to change. He thanked the Board for their time and for advocating for every child, their safety and well-being.

Elenor Hannum – Teacher, resident, alumni – She is concern that we are selling a school when 26 trailers are in use. She is concerned about the busing and the gas and time it takes to travel in this large town. She would also like the approval of 3,000 housing units and the additional students it will bring to be taken into consideration when selling a school. She is concerned about the social emotional well-being of our children when taking away late buses which also takes away their ability to do after school sports and activities which is needed for their mental well being.

Robert Barasca- Resident- He is concerned about the increase in taxes. The board voted against the budget and he thinks it is beyond Mrs. Morris’ authority to overturn it. He urges the Board to reject the budget. He wished the Board luck in suing the state.

Mr. Palmeri turned to floor to Mrs. Pormilli to address the questions from public forum.

Mrs. Pormilli stated we are seeing continued increase in class sizes. She is estimating class sizes at the elementary level to be anywhere from 25 – 27. They will work to keep our youngest grades to lowest numbers possible. At the middle school level class sizes will between 28 - 32 and then the high school level it will be 30 - 35 students. She noted research shows that smaller class sizes equals better achievement and these are high numbers.

Mr. Zitomer addressed the lawsuit timeline. He noted that litigation is a long and arduous process. He noted there is a legal process in which a petitioner or a plaintiff can seek emergent relief meaning the suit would get into court or before an administrative law judge on an expedited basis to get the relief that you're seeking. There are very stringent criteria that have to be satisfied for this. We would proceed on an emergent basis. He did not want to divulge too much more about our legal strategy.

Discussion Items

Standing Committee Reports:

- Buildings & Grounds – Mr. McCarron (Chair), Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Kas (Alt: Mr. Palmeri)
Mr. McCarron shared some capital improvement projects that took place including:
 - Elms - Room 225- New HVAC compressor installed.
 - Liberty - C121-New HVAC compressor installed.
 - Goetz - Generator repaired that operates lift station during power outages.
 - Liberty-Heat exchanger replaced for auxiliary gym.
 - Memorial Clayton C-Wing- Pre School project in process.
 - Goetz Gymnasium Floor- Resurface entire floor, repair and paint all new graphics.
 - Memorial Transportation – Paving project completed.
 - RTK/DOH INSPECTIONS
 - Rullo & Juillet Associates has updated our districtwide SDS files with the DEP. We are in compliance.
- Transportation – **Mrs. Barocas**, Mr. Palmeri & Mrs. Kas (alt. Dr. Osmond)
 - Met with the township and transportation board
 - As Mrs. Pormilli mentioned, curtsey busing will be returning with the funds we received from the state
 - We are also working with the township on the 2025-2026 school year to look at the infestriecture of the roads and township to see what we are looking at moving forward.

Policy/Regulations

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following Policy/Regulation Second Reading: Policy/
Regulations

Mr. Palmeri opened Policy to discussion. There was no additional discussion.

Policy / Regulations – 2nd Reading

P 0167	BYLAWS	Public Participation in Board Meetings (revised)
P 1140	ADMINISTRATION	Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action (M) (revised)
P 1523	ADMINISTRATION	Comprehensive Equity Plan (M) (revised)
P 2000	PROGRAM	Table of Contents (revised)
R 2000	PROGRAM	Table of Contents (revised)
P 2260	PROGRAM	Equity in School and Classroom Practices (M) (revised)
R 2260	PROGRAM	Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedures (M) (revised)
P 5000	STUDENTS	Table of Contents (revised)
P 5750	STUDENTS	Equitable Educational Opportunity (M) (revised)
Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	Mrs. Gardella Mr. McCarron Mrs. Barocas Dr. Osmond Mrs. Rivera Mrs. Kas Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

Official Board Meeting
July 17, 2024
Jackson Memorial High School Fine Arts Auditorium

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following Board Meeting minutes:

Official Board Meeting – June 26, 2024 Closed Session Meeting
Official Board Meeting – June 26, 2024 Business Meeting

Approve
Minutes

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved Bills and Claims for July 1-17, 2024 and June 2024:

Total Computer Checks, July 1-17, 2024	\$ 26,078.07	Bills/
Total Computer Checks, June 30, 2024	\$ 4,271,752.03	<u>Claims</u>
Total Hand Checks, June 30, 2024	\$ 10,163.46	
6/30 Bill List	\$ 1,100,072.93	
Aid in Lieu	\$ 1,648,545.70	
Total Payroll, June 30, 2024	\$11,852,165.01	
FICA: June 30, 2024	\$ 586,940.11	
Total Board Share	\$ 294,342.38	
Retired Health Benefits and Pension Payment	\$ 7,630.53	
Health Benefits	\$ 1,744,371.25	
Refinancing of Existing Debt-Interest	\$ 571,875.00	
Principal	\$ 6,255,000.00	
Voids	\$ (28,116.75)	
Total Budgetary Payment, June 30, 2024	\$ 28,314,741.65	
FOOD SERVICE		
BOARD BILLS AND CLAIMS	\$ 367,391.27	
May 2024		

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri (ABSTAINED ON ANYTHING REGARDING STAPLES)

MOTIONS CARRIED

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer’s & Board Secretary’s reports for the month of May 2024.

Treas/Bd
Sec’y
Rpt

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

Board Secretary’s Certification:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d), I certify that as of May 31, 2024, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Jackson Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1.

Daniel Baginski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PUBLIC FORUM – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the public forum on agenda items only was opened by acclamation.

Public
Forum

Mr. Palmeri made the following statement: “Please state your name and whether or not you are a Jackson resident. Each person has five minutes to speak. No person may speak more than once on a topic until all others have been heard.”

Mr. Palmeri asked if anyone would like to speak on agenda items only to please come come up.

Seeing no one come forward, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, second by Mrs. Kas, the public forum on agenda items only was closed by acclamation.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were presented for formal approval by the Board of Education.

FINANCE

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Finance:

1. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the line-item transfers for the month of May, 2024.

Document A.

2. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the adjustments to the Federal and State Fund 20 Projects for the 2023-2024 school year for May, 2024.

Document B.

3. Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47, the Jackson Township Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the contracts subsequently awarded by the Board of Education, these contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18. et.seq, NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR, Part200.

Document C.

4. The Board of Education approves the following final budget for the 2024-2025 school year and the following 2024-2025 budget resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY on July 17, 2024 as follows:

1. The Board of Education approves the 2024-2025 budget for the submission to the County Superintendent’s Office in the amount of \$165,689,576.00 that consists of a Total General Fund of \$144,109,855.00, Federal/State Programs of \$13,147,421.00 and Debt Service of \$8,432,300.00.
2. The Board of Education approves the Tax Levy amount raised for General Funds of \$102,508,586.00 for the ensuing 2024-2025 school year.

Document D.

5. The Board of Education approves the following tentative tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year as calculated using Title 6A:23A-17.1 pending District application to the Commissioner of Education for actual tuition cost allocations and school year audit, at which time the District will bill for or refund any adjusted tuition costs:

Tentative Tuition Rates for the 2024-2025 School Year:

<u>Regular Education</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Special Education</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Preschool/Kindergarten:	\$12,454.00	Learning and/or Language Disabilities:	\$52,383.00
Grades 1-5:	\$14,817.00	Behavioral Disabilities:	\$33,124.00
Grades 6-8:	\$15,356.00	Multiple Disabilities:	\$26,186.00
Grades 9-12:	\$15,062.00	Preschool Disabled–Full Time	\$73,393.00

6. The Board of Education, in accordance with 54:4-75 “Payment by Municipality of School Moneys to Treasurer”, the following Schedule for District Taxes for the 2024-2025 School Year, in accordance with the Certification of Taxes:

<u>Date</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
07/05/2024	\$8,542,383.00	\$663,444.00	\$9,205,827.00
08/05/2024	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
09/05/2024	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
10/05/2024	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
11/05/2024	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
12/05/2024	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
July-December 2024	\$51,254,293.00	\$3,980,659.00	\$55,234,952.00
01/05/2025	\$8,542,383.00	\$663,442.00	\$9,205,825.00
02/05/2025	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
03/05/2025	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
04/05/2025	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
05/05/2025	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
06/05/2025	\$8,542,382.00	\$663,443.00	\$9,205,825.00
January-June 2025	\$51,254,293.00	\$3,980,657.00	\$55,234,950.00
Paid by June 30, 2025	\$102,508,586.00	\$7,961,316.00	\$110,469,902.00

7. The Board of Education approves the following line item transfer for the Perkins Secondary Education 2023 grant funds for the 2023-2024 school year:

Transfer Amount	From Account #	To Account #
\$1,411.50	20-363-200-110-09	20-363-100-110-09
\$150.00	20-363-100-300-09	20-363-200-600-09
\$1,361.50	20-363-200-110-09	20-363-200-600-09

8. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, awards the RFP for Sponsorship Promoter Services to Shore District Advertising, Allentown, New Jersey for the 2024-2025 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Gardella - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Mr. McCarron - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Mrs. Barocas - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Dr. Osmond - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Mrs. Rivera - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Mrs. Kas - No to #4 – Yes to all others
 Mr. Palmeri - No to #4 – Yes to all others

Mr. Palmeri clarified tha Finance #4 is the budget and the 9.9% tax increase and the Board has voted unanimously no.

Mrs. Morris informed the Board that she has to “take this under due consideration and report back to the Board sometime probably within the next 48 hours.”

MOTIONS CARRIED

FACILITIES

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motion:

- 1. The Board of Education approves the use of facilities for groups as filed.
Document E

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
 Mr. McCarron
 Mrs. Barocas
 Dr. Osmond
 Mrs. Rivera
 Mrs. Kas
 Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

PROGRAMS:

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Programs.

Mrs. Gardella questioned #7 – regarding submission of a language instruction educational program which states that class size impacts the learning of all students. If the budget moves forward the class sizes will be 30 to 40. Will that be a concern for that application? Mrs. Pormilli responded there is absolutely a concern. Mrs. Gardella stated that application and our discussion today is hypocritical.

- 1. The Board of Education approves the following student teachers as filed with the Assistant Superintendent:

REQUEST	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY	NAME	DATES	COOPERATING TEACHER(s)	SCHOOL
Practicum	New Jersey City University	Catherine Idank	09/01/24 – 12/22/24	Marites Delfin	JMHS

- 2. The Board of Education approves the following Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Resolution for the 2024-2025 school year:

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Jackson 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:23A-7.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive prior 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 as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 06-14-OMB, including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below which Board approval is not required; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-7.3(b)1. et seq. and the Board of Education establishes, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$1,500.00 per staff/Board member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff/Board 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:23A-7.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable are excluded from the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq.; and

- THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as per noted on the Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Form; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves the travel and related expense reimbursement as listed on the Board of Education Approval of Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Form.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Education approves the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year at \$130,000.00, which the school district shall not exceed. The maximum travel expenditure amount for 2023-2024 was \$130,000.00. The amount spent as of June 30, 2024 is \$40,180.62.
- The Board of Education approves the option to extend implementation of the 2019-2022 Comprehensive Equity Plan (CEP) through the 2024-2025 school year given by the NJDOE and submission of the Statement of Assurance (SOA) extending the CEP by one (1) year to the Executive County Superintendent.
 - The Board of Education approves Daniel Baginski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Raymond Milewski, Director of Security as the Jackson School District School Safety Specialists (SSS) for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - The Board of Education approves submission of the Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program for the 2024-2025 school year to the County Office as required (P.L. 2020, c.27).

Document F.

- The Board of Education accepts the Spring 2024 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment Results and the ACCESS for ELLs scores received from the NJDOE in June, 2024, as presented at this July 17, 2024 Board of Education meeting.
- The Board of Education approves submission of the 2024-2027 Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) Three-Year Plan as required in N.J.A.C. 6A-15-1.5 to the New Jersey Department of Education on or before July 31, 2024.

Document G.

- The Board of Education approves the application for funds under the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Application for fiscal year 2025, starting date July 1, 2024, ending date September 30, 2025 for the following programs:

Program	Funds Requested
Title I, Part A:	\$2,674,406.00
Title I Supplemental:	\$92,132.00
Title I SIA Part A:	\$100,000.00
Title II Part A:	\$378,511.00
Title III:	\$117,199.00
Title III - Immigrant:	\$21,454.00
Title IV:	\$168,153.00

- The Board of Education approves the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Family Night’s on the following dates for the 2024-2025 school year, as part of the Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA) program at the Title I elementary schools:
 - October 16, 2024; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm @ Holman Elementary School
 - January 14, 2025; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm @ Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School
 - April 10, 2025; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm @ Switlik Elementary School
 - June 3, 2025; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm @ Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School
- The Board of Education approves services for the 2024-2025 school year with Teaching Strategies, Inc. to provide professional development to Preschool Inclusion teaching and paraprofessional staff on September 4, 2024 and October 14, 2023 staff professional days, total cost not to exceed \$23,160.00 (20-218-200-329-09), paid through the Preschool Aid program.
- The Board of Education approves professional day requests and the travel related expense resolution from school board and staff members as filed with the appropriate supervisor.

Document H.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
 Mr. McCarron
 Mrs. Barocas
 Dr. Osmond
 Mrs. Rivera
 Mrs. Kas
 Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

STUDENTS:

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education opened discussion the following student motions:

Mr. Palmeri stated both students and personnel (transferring teachers and moving Rosenauer students) are tied to the budget passing. We voted no to this budget but Mrs. Morris is taking additional time to review her stance. How can we vote for students and personnel tonight if we're not sure if Mrs. Morris is going to veto our vote or agree with us on finance?

Mr. Zitomer stated that is a good question to direct to Mrs. Morris. Currently, the Board does not have a budget for next year because it was unanimously voted down. He noted it was an excellent point about how the Board is able to vote for all the resolutions that follow at this point given the lack of a a budget.

Mr. Palmeri asked Mrs. Morris what we legally do at this point? He doesn’t feel confident as Board President to vote for the transfer of staff and students when it is all tied to the budget the Board voted down and there is no budget for the 2024-25 school year.

Mrs. Morris stated she doesn’t see why you cannot approve the recommendations from your superintendent contingent upon the decision of the budget.

Mr. Palmeri asked - Contingent on the budget failing?

Mrs. Morris stated - Contingent on on the outcome of the budget yes

Mr. Palmeri noted that the budget currently is failed because Mrs. Morris didn't overrule it.

Mrs. Morris stated it can be phrased as contingent upon Mrs. Morris’ decision. She stated the Board can't take the a chance of waiting until August to make all those decisions.

Mr. Palmeri deferred to council if the Board should vote or abstain.

Mr. Zitomer recommended another discussion in closed session for about 15 minutes under attorney client privilege given the predicament that we're in to discuss our legal options.

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education adjourned for approximately 15 minutes for a closed session discussion at 8:15.

The public meeting reconvened and was called to order by Board President, Giuseppe Palmeri, at 8:34 p.m. on July 17, 2024.

Roll Call - Present:

Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Mr. Palmeri stated the Board is confident they can move forward with students however with the uncertainty of the budget, Mrs. Pormilli decided to administratively remove Personnel from this agenda. He announced there will be a special meeting next Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Memorial auditorium to address Personnel once we have the conclusion of what is happening with Finance.

Mrs Pormilli administratively removed the Personnel items from tonight's agenda.

Mr. Palmeri stated the Board can move forward with the vote for students but Finance may have to be slightly revisited next week as well depending on Mrs. Morris’ decision.

STUDENTS, continued:

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following student motions:

1. The Board of Education approves the following tuition adjustments for out of district placements previously approved on the June 26, 2024 agenda for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (account 11-000-100-566-09, unless otherwise noted):

a.	1 Student	Placement:	Alpha School – with ESY
		Tuition:	\$92,746.50 per student

b.	4 Students	Placement:	Alpha School – with Aide & ESY
		Tuition:	\$130,546.50 per student

c.	4 Students	Placement:	Children’s Center of MC – with ESY
		Tuition:	\$84,839.06 per student

d.	2 Students	Placement:	Children’s Center of MC– with Aide & ESY
		Tuition:	\$122,989.06 per student

e.	1 Student	Placement:	The Shore Center for Autism – ESY (11-000-100-565-09)
		Tuition:	\$63,884.20 per student

f.	1 Student	Placement:	The Shore Center for Autism – with Aide & ESY (11-000-100-565-09)
		Tuition:	\$116,454.12 per student (includes a \$2,500 per student Pre-Voc fee)

2. The Board of Education approves the following change in Out-of-District placements for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (11-000-100-566-09, unless otherwise noted):

a.	1 Student	Placement:	Bancroft School/Lindens – with Aide & ESY
		Tuition:	\$155,355.90 per student

3. The Board of Education approves the following Out-of-District placements for the 2024-2025 school year, beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (11-000-100-566-09, unless otherwise noted):

a.	1 Student	Placement:	Hampton Academy – with Aide & ESY
		Tuition:	\$126,500.00 per student

- 4. The Board of Education approves services for the 2024-2025 school year with Advancing Opportunities to provide services, total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00 (11-000-219-320-09-210000).
- 5. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Memorial High School Varsity Cheerleading team to go to UCA Cheerleading Camp to be held at Trail’s End in Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, Thursday, August 15, 2024 through Sunday August 18, 2024, at no cost to the Board.
- 6. The Board of Education approves participation in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade Mass Youth Choir for the Goetz Middle School Chorus on November 23rd and 24th, 2024, at no cost to the Board.
- 7. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Goetz Middle School Chorus and Jackson Memorial High School Drama Club to Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, PA on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 to attend the matinee performance of Anastasia, at no cost to the Board.
- 8. The Board of Education accepts, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15b(6), the monthly Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report as presented to the Board of Education during Executive Session.

Document I,

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

PERSONNEL

Mrs Pormilli **administratively removed** the Personnel items from tonight's agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions:

PUBLIC FORUM

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the public forum on any item was opened by acclamation.

Public
Forum

Mr. Palmeri made the following statement: “Please sign in and state your name and whether or not you are a Jackson resident. Each person has a maximum of five minutes to speak. No person may speak more than once on a topic until all others have been heard.”

Isaac Elsner – Resident, former student - He is concerned about voting on students when we don't have a budget and Rosenauer closing is pending the budget.

Erin Mathioudakis - Resident – She is concerned about having sufficient time to advertise for next Wednesday’s meeting and the Sunshine Law. Mr. Zitomer stated the Board is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act and the board has to advertise a special meeting 48 hours in advance of the meeting next Wednesday. Mrs. Mathioudaks asked if the requirement for advertisement was 10 days prior. Mr. Zitomer informed her that it is 48 hours.

Kathy DeGregorio -Resident - She asked if the state gave specific numbers regarding what our fair share is considered. She also asked asked for clarification on the sale of Rosenauer. Will buyers know we are desperate? What amount are we were selling it for? How was that amount determined? What happens if we don't get that amount?

Kathy Dipierro – Resident – She asked how will the public be informed of Mrs. Morris’ decision. She asked what happens if the budget doesn't go forward and what is the next step for the district? She noted the kids, including Rosenauer students, band kids and athletes, need stability.

Deb Jones -Resident and Paraprofessional – She thanked Mrs. Morris you for not placing her vote tonight. She hopes Mrs. Morris thinks about how the residents feel over the next 48 hours before making her decision.

Seeing no one else come forward, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, the public forum on any item was closed by acclamation.

Mrs. Pormilli addressed some questions. Voting on students pertains to the actual items on the agenda; none of these item are related to the Rosenauer students. There are items regarding placement for students out of district and trip approvals – these items would not be affected by the budget vote. The Rosenauer student movement is still happening. She refered the local fair share calculation and the convoluted formula question to Mr. Baginski. Mr. Baginski stated the equalized valuation of the properties in town and the income of the residents in town are the two big metrics that the state utilizes. Neither has anything to do with what is done in the school district. So this is what Mrs. Morris means when she mentions the local fair share.

Mrs. Pormilli stated in regard to selling Rosenauer and the dollar amount, we needed to make some very quick decisions about what to assess that at. We have not done a formal appraisal. We will go through that process but for now in the budget is the \$7 million price tag. It was based on a quick search other elementary schools and what we felt would be a semi-realistic number. We were looking to close the gap in the budget. If we don't get that amount or we don't sell it quickly, we're going to run into a deficit. This is what we have been articulating to our County offices and to the Department of Education - it not a good plan but in order to close an \$18 million gap that's the choice we needed to make.

The next steps in regards to hearing and the final decision of Mrs. Morris, we will email out to our families and our community about her decision and we will also be informing the community of the special meeting.

Mr. Palmeri opened the floor to Board comments.

Board Comments

Mr. McCarron thanked everybody for coming. He thanked our administrative team for their hard work making these last minute changes.

Dr. Osmond thanked everybody for coming. She noted it's a frustrating situation and the Board is trying to do the best they can. The Board will keep fighting. She noted it possibly could be a good sign that we didn't get overturned immediately.

Mrs. Rivera thanked everyone for coming out this evening and viewing on live stream. She thanked everyone for thier input and comments. She noted we should not be closing any school buildings when we have 30 classrooms in trailers; this should be considered and rectified.

Mrs. Gardella thanked the residents and our administrative team for coming tonight and doing a nice job of articulating the needs of Jackson. She appreciates Mrs. Morris taking extra time to consider tonight comments. She hopes we can have a more stable game plan for Jackson moving forward that allows us to make less haste decisions that benefit our students.

Mrs. Barocas thanked everyone for coming tonight and watching on TV. She thanked our Administration for working tirelessly so many hours beyond their normal time for our children. She thanked Mrs. Morris for taking extra time to make a final decision.

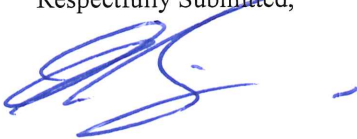
Mrs. Kas agreed with everyone else's sentiments. She thanked our administrative team and Mrs. Morris for really hearing all of our comments. She knows Mrs. Morris has a tough decision as does the Board. She noted we will be back here next Wednesday.

Mr. Palmeri thanked our residents, Mrs. Pormilli and the administrative staff, teachers and our school staff for advocating. He noted the frustrating time but said the Board will continue to advocate to make sure our students get the education they deserve and always had in Jackson. He thanked the Board for supporting him. He thanked Mrs. Morris for taking time to think about this. He noted she was a superintendent and an educator during her carreer and she knows what's right and he knows she is in a hard spot. He hopes she understands the need and takes this time to go back to the Department of Education and say this can't be done to Jackson. This is too great of a town to do this to. He hopes for some positive resolutions to this by next Wednesday.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:49 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel Baginski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary