
TO: Jackson Township Board of Education
FROM: *NICOLE PORMILLI, SUPERINTENDENT*
SUBJECT: September 22, 2021 Agenda Addendum #2
DATE: **September 22, 2021**

FINANCE

ADD Motion #12:

The Board of Education approves the following Resolution for the application and acceptance, if received, for Stabilization Aid in the amount of \$6,000,000 due to financial distress we are and will be experiencing.

RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
(FOR STABILIZATION AID APPLICATION)

September 22, 2021

WHEREAS, the Jackson Township School District (“the district”), despite seeing temporary relief from ESSER grant funds and favorable budget variances for the prior two budget years due to the pandemic, is experiencing, and will continue to experience, financial distress as a structural deficit is building due to the reduction in state school aid with the implementation of Chapter Law 67 (known as S2), whereby our state school aid has been reduced by \$4.3 million (cumulative loss of \$11.4 million) since 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, in the last 6 years, in addition to reductions in supply, facilities and technology budgets and a dramatic increase in Non-Public Student Aid in Lieu (AIL) payments, 143 staff positions have been eliminated in the district (97 of which were teaching positions) and of these, 5 teaching positions were able to be reinstated in 2021-22 by using ESSER II funds, but such funding is temporary and will run out, thereby creating a fiscal hardship; and

WHEREAS, given the current class sizes and staffing levels in the 2021-22 school year, and given that in the most recent Taxpayers’ Guide to Education Spending (2021), the district is the 34th lowest total spending per pupil district, and 17th lowest budgetary cost per pupil district in the state for its category (of the 92 districts over 3,500 students) - which demonstrates that the district is already fiscally lean - the district does not believe any further significant budget cuts can be made without having a very negative impact on students in terms of class sizes and program offerings; and

WHEREAS, the district requires additional aid in 2021-22 as we anticipate a state aid reduction of approximately \$4.1 million at minimum for the 2022-23 school year (based on the state aid calculation spreadsheet provided by the NJ Association of School Business Officials), and such aid reductions cannot be fully made up for through the required 2% tax levy increase nor by any significant reductions in expenses as noted above, nor should the aid reduction be made up for by using additional ESSER funds as such funds are temporary and will lead to an even more severe funding cliff; and

WHEREAS, the timing of Stabilization Aid awards (the 2021-22 school year is already under way and budget shortfalls were temporarily addressed by utilizing ESSER II grant funds), is such that Stabilization Aid funds would fall to fund balance in 2021-22 and could be appropriated as surplus in the 2022-23 budget year to fund and retain 37 staff positions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the submission of an application for Stabilization Aid in the amount of \$6,000,000 due to financial distress we are and will be experiencing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education and will accompany the September 22, 2021 cover letter submitted by the Superintendent.

PROGRAMS

ADD Motion #9

The Board of Education approves Kathleen McKiernan, Principal of Switlik Elementary, to attend the Green Ribbon Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC September 26-28, 2021 to accept this national award on behalf of Switlik Elementary school and the district. Mrs. McKiernan will be reimbursed for lodging, food, mileage and tolls as per the travel expenditure amount allowed and approved by the Jackson School District.

PERSONNEL

Motion #4. The Board of Education approves a leave of absence for the following personnel:

ADD:

n. Maria Montulet, Paraprofessional/Crawford, paid Medical Leave of Absence effective September 20, 2021 through TBD.

Motion #7 Transfers – The Board of Education approves the transfer of the following personnel:

ADD:

cc. Jennifer Kinsella, transfer from Community Services Coordinator/District to Community Parent Involvement Specialist/District, new position, effective October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Motion #9 Employments - The Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel:

AMEND:

f. Christine Izzo, Lunchroom Aide/~~Rosenauer~~ JLHS, 3.5 hours per day, replacing Stephanie Negron, effective September 23, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

o. Melissa ~~McNamara~~ McNamara, Kindergarten Teacher/Rosenauer, new position, effective September 23, 2021, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2022.

ADD Motion #29

The Board of Education approves the elimination of the following position for the 2021-222 school year:
Community Services Coordinator/District PC#1581.