

Toms River, New Jersey, May 14, 2025

A Budget Hearing of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools took place at High School North Media Center, 1245 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 6:57 P.M.

Board President Mrs. Ashley Lamb read the following Opening Statement:

“Good Evening, Welcome to a Budget Hearing of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools.”

“This meeting was announced to the public through a notice published on the Toms River Regional Schools website on May 9, 2025, which constituted at least 48 hours notice as required by law under the Open Public Meetings Act and in the Asbury Park Press on May 14, 2025.”

A roll call of attendance indicated the following Board Members were present: Mrs. Maria Matarazzo, Mr. Joseph Jubert, Mrs. Katie Coyne, Mrs. Lisa Contessa, Mr. Kevin Kidney, Mrs. Paola Pascarella, Mr. James Capone, and Mrs. Ashley Lamb.

Ms. Kathy Eagan was absent.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Citta, Assistant Superintendents DiMeo, Thomas, Business Administrator Doering, Board Secretary Saxton, and Board Attorney Burns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:58 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Coyne and carried that the following Executive Session Resolution be approved:

Resolved, that the Board of Education, at this time, move to a closed session to be held in High School North Executive Session Meeting Room, 1245 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, New Jersey, for the purpose of:

Executive Session – To *Include* – Personnel; Legal Litigation; Other. Subject to change.

as outlined under the Open public Meetings Act.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION – 7:22 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Coyne and carried that the Board return to Regular Session at 7:22 P.M.

All members present voting Aye.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Mrs. Ashley Lamb led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Michael Citta stated the meeting was a repeat of the April 30, 2025 Budget Hearing and the 2025-2026 budget was once again being presented to the Board of Education as requested by the New Jersey Department of Education in order to meet the statutory deadline of adopting a budget. Superintendent Citta stated he previously presented this 2025-2026 budget to the Board of Education and the only way to balance this budget was to apply for the tax incentive increase which in turn would apply a 12.9% tax levy increase in 2025-2026. Superintendent Citta turned the meeting over to Mr. Doering, the Business Administrator, to provide an explanation as to what the tax levy incentive increase means for the four municipalities and then asked the Board to reconsider the 2025-2026 budget.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS AND PRESS – BUDGET HEARING ONLY

(limited to 3 minutes as per Board Policy # 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)

No public comments were heard.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mr. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Matarazzo and carried that the Motion to Adopt the 2025-2026 School District Budget Resolution be approved.

On roll call following the vote:

Ayes: None.

*Noes: Matarazzo, Jubert, Coyne, Contessa, Kidney, Pascarella, Capone,
Lamb*

Recused: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Eagan.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS AND PRESS *(limited to 5 minutes as per Board
Policy # 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)*

No public comments were heard.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

*A motion was made by Mr. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Coyne and carried that the
meeting be adjourned at 7:31 P.M.*

All members present voting Aye.

Wendy L. Saxton, Board Secretary