

HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY
 Tuesday, April 25, 2023
 Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Budget – 7:00 P.M.
 Board of Education Meeting Room

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Time: 6:59 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING BEGINS:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building, communicated to The Herald News, The Record, and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne.

(Ask for Roll Call)

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	Time of arrival after meeting has been called to order.
Joseph Carr		X	
Alex Clavijo	X		
Michael Doyle	X		
Jennifer Ehrentraut	X		
Alma Morel	X		
Anthony Puluse	X		
Jay Shortway	X		
Marco Totaro	X		
Abigail Goff	X		

Also Present: Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools
 Cheryl Ambrose, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
 And approximately 18 members of the public and 4 on YouTube.

FLAG SALUTE:

MEETING REGULATIONS:

During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, the meeting is open to the public for the purpose of addressing items listed for approval on this agenda only. The second opportunity occurs just prior to adjournment, when citizens may address any subject matter that is pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the school district.

Persons wishing to speak must upon being recognized, rise, state their name, address and subject matter. Comments and questions shall be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer and shall be limited to five minutes per person. The Board may (or may not) respond to issues raised by members of the public at the time they are raised, but will provide a response if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Please note that the Board will not respond to comments regarding students or board employees in light of the privacy rights held by those individuals. Moreover, the Board discourages comments about such individuals, and will not be responsible for such comments. Members of the public who choose to speak during this public session should carefully consider their comments, since they could be held personally liable for any statements they make.

Finally, please note that in accordance with District Policy the Board will not officially comment or respond to any matter mentioned unless it can confirm that the matter has first been brought to the attention of the appropriate school personnel in an attempt to resolve the issue.

PUBLIC BE HEARD - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

BUDGET PRESENTATION: 2023-2024 Budget Power Point Presentation by Dr. Spirito

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Alex Clavijo, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

F-1. APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board of Education of Hawthorne hereby adopts the following budget for the 2023-2024 school year:

The proposed budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the core Curriculum Content Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A.

Expenditures

Total General Fund Expenses	\$49,912,950
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,557,460
Repayment of Debt	\$ 1,971,994

Total Expenditures \$53,442,404

Revenue

Budgeted Fund Balance – operating	\$ 531,348
Budgeted Fund Balance – debt service	\$ 75,000
Local Tax Levy	
Current	\$42,727,653
Debt Service	\$ 1,385,602
Tuition	\$ 45,000
Misc. Revenue	\$ 157,700
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$ 117,342
State Aid	
Current (includes extraordinary aid)	\$ 5,051,117
Debt Service	\$ 511,392
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,557,460
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	\$ 1,282,790

Total Revenue \$53,442,404

Included in the budget is the use of \$736,655 Health Care Cost Adjustment. The Adjustment for Health Care Costs is to help offset the 15.1% increase in School Employees’ Health Benefit Program expenses.

Be it further resolved, that the district’s general tax requirements to support the proposed 2023-2024 budget, as stipulated by the Hawthorne Board of Education Finance Committee and Hawthorne Borough Municipal Officials, as follows:

General Fund:	\$42,727,653
Debt Service:	\$ 1,385,602
Total:	\$44,113,255

F-2. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Be It Further Resolved, that included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects is \$1,282,790 for other capital project costs including \$980,790 for the ROD grant roof replacement project; \$167,000 for the COPS grant mass communication system replacement project; and the \$135,000 for the Hawthorne High School field and bus yard fencing project. The total cost of these projects is \$1,282,790 which represents expenditures for construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

F-3. APPROVAL OF WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL RESERVE

Be it Resolved, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approves the withdrawal of \$1,282,790 from Capital Reserve to fund the local share of the ROD grant roof replacement project; COPS grant communication replacement project, and Hawthorne High School field and bus yard fencing project.

F-1-3 – Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Mr. Puluse

- Ayes - Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff**
- Nays - None**
- Abstain - None**
- Absent - Mr. Carr**

PUBLIC BE HEARD:

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make comments on educational issues or school matters.

Mr. Toby Murphy requested information on the cuts made in this 2023-2024 budget.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Dr. Morel commented on the wonderful TREPS program and suggested class follow up for lessons learned in the marketplace.

Mr. Doyle expressed gratitude for everyone’s participation in and support of the budget process.

Mr. Clavijo congratulated the senior athletes and the 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Mr. Totaro echoed Dr. Morel’s enthusiasm of the TREPS event. Additionally, he implored the State to investigate SEHBP premiums and district funding.

Ms. Ehrentraut thanked all the school administrators for their efforts in supporting our schools and reminded everyone of the High School Drama Production, The Addams Family, Thursday – Sunday, April 27 – 30, 2023.

Mr. Puluse expressed pride in being a member of the Board of Education and Hawthorne community.

Mrs. Goff voiced her gratitude for everyone’s support of our schools.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 7:44 p.m. Dr. Morel moved the board adjourn, seconded by Mr. Clavijo

Ayes	-	Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff
Nays	-	None
Abstain	-	None
Absent	-	Mr. Carr

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Ambrose
Board Secretary