

Minutes
Public Hearing Meeting April 26, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:17 PM

FLAG SALUTE

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as follows: by having the time, date and place of the meeting posted on the bulletin board in the Administration Building April 17, 2018; by sending a copy of the meeting notice to the Union County Local Source on April 17, 2018; and by filing a copy with the Township of Hillside and Hillside Public Library on April 17, 2018.

ROLL CALL:

Allende	6:17 p.m.		Thomas	Absent	
Chapman	6:17 p.m.		Watson	6:17 p.m.	
Chiles-Bass	6:17 p.m.		Thompson-Epps	6:17 p.m.	
Lofton	6:17 p.m.		Gayles	6:17 p.m.	
Menza	6:17 p.m.		Gonzalez	6:17 p.m.	
Stanley	6:17 p.m.		Kleen	6:17 p.m.	

Public Hearing on the tentative 2018-19 district budget – Dr. Gayles gave a PowerPoint presentation on the budget.

Motion to open public comments.

Motion: Menza Second: Chiles-Bass

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

Anthony Salters wants to know how many taxpayers have to give up a cup of coffee for the budget.

Dr. Gayles said he was unsure.

Anthony Salters also wanted to know where the two unarmed security guards would be stationed.

Dr. Gayles answered A.P. Morris and Hurden Looker Schools.

Anthony Salters also wanted to know which school out of the six would not have an armed security guard.

Dr. Gayles indicated that the Township would be supplying one full time armed guard and one floating armed guard bringing the total of armed guards for schools to seven.

Anthony Salters asked for costs of all items Dr. Gayles included as new items in budget.

Dr. Gayles answered and gave the cost for all new budget items.

Aldina Mitchell wanted to know about out of district students. She also wanted to know if the security scanners and visitors badges were necessary.

Dr. Gayles explained that out of district students are students whose needs cannot be met by the district. He also said all schools would have security scanners and badges. This decision was based on recommendations from law enforcement.

Mattie Holloway asked what the budget increase was last year.

Dr. Gayles said it was 0%.

She said she wanted to know if we looked at the budget really hard. She feels there are a lot of things we could do to decrease the budget.

Dr. Gayles explained the fiscal cliff.

Jeffery Dodson asked what was done with the money from the 4% increase from 2016.

Dr. Gayles explained that the previous Interim Superintendent initiated five Project Lead the Way courses for high school and middle school students that were very costly. Money was spent on professional development for teachers and a variety of other initiatives.

Jeffery Dodson stated that his mother's taxes are \$16,000 and asked the board to please take that into consideration.

Barbara Rowan said she wanted to see budget information so she could compare last year's budget to this year's.

George Cook suggested that we have three or four budget meetings for the community. He also stated he is nervous about having armed guards at the schools. He also asked for another iteration of the budget at 1%.

Taheia Gluck wanted to know if the board looked carefully for ways to cut the budget.

Paula King pays \$14,000 in taxes. She may lose her house because of taxes. She asked that the board look at the budget carefully.

David Furstein echoed the sentiments of his neighbors. He asked the board to reevaluate the budget.

Aldina Mitchell stated both of her sons went to private school. She feels the residents who don't have children attending school in Hillside need to be considered.

Pensca Shapiro appreciates the work the board and superintendent is doing. The education of our children is the most important decision because they are our future. Taxes are too high in Hillside and limits need to be set. The board needs to be smart about every dollar spent.

Barbara Rowan thinks we may need to merge our district with Elizabeth or another district.

Kimberly Ungerman stated there was no budget available to review.

Motion to close public comments.

Motion: Menza Second: Chiles-Bass

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote

FINANCE – Thomas/Stanley

Motion to table #1.

1. Approval of 2018-19 Budget

Motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Hillside Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on March 19, 2018 to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on April 16, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Local Source on April 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on April 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for General Fund Expenses shall be \$55,959,392, of which \$30,526,495 shall be raised by tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for Special Revenue Fund Expense shall be \$4,200,348, of which \$181,720 shall be transferred from the general fund; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the budget for Debt Service Expense shall be \$0, of which \$0 shall be raised by tax levy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hillside Board of Education hereby adopts the 2018-19 Fiscal Year budget; and,

BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised in taxes for the General Fund \$30,526,495 for the ensuing School Year (2018-19).

Motion: Watson

Second: Chiles-Bass

	Yes	No	Ab.		Yes	No	Ab.
Allende	X			Stanley	X		
Chapman	X			Thomas	X		
Chiles-Bass	X			Watson	X		
Lofton	X			Thompson-Epps	X		
Menza	X						

Motion carried. 9 Yes 0 No

Motion 1 tabled.

Motion to open public comment.

Motion: Stanley Second: Allende

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments #2 – None

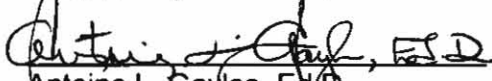
Motion to close public comments.

Motion: Allende Second: Lofton

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Watson Second: Lofton

Respectfully submitted,


Antoine L. Gayles, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools