

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Minutes of the Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:00 P.M. Public Hearing on the 2014-15 Budget Meeting**

These minutes have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification.

The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a Public Hearing on the 2014-15 Budget Meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

A. The Montgomery Township Board of Education held a public hearing on the 2014-15 budget meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 in the Upper Middle School Media Center.

B. Roll Call - The following Board members were present: Humberto Goldoni, Nicholas Hladick, Judy Humza, Adelle Kirk-Contos, Arun Rimal and Dr. Lei Yu

The following Board members were absent: Sandra Donnay, Dharmesh Doshi and Anne Michaelson

Also Present: Nancy Gartenberg, Superintendent  
Thomas M. Venanzi, Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary  
Alexander Chen, Student Representative

C. President Rimal then read the following Statement of Open Meeting and Public Participation – In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing notice of meeting on April 23, 2014. Notice was provided to Board of Education Members, Montgomery Township Clerk, Rocky Hill Borough Clerk, Public Library, Township Posting, School Postings, PTSA Officers, Courier News, Princeton Packet, Trenton Times, and The Star Ledger.

F. President Rimal then led everyone in the Salute to the Flag.

G. President Rimal welcomed all to the public hearing on the 2014-15 budget meeting.


**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2014-15 BUDGET**

Mr. Goldoni, Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson, made the following presentation which was an overview of the 2014-15 budget:

**BUDGET HEARING  
2014-2015 BUDGET**

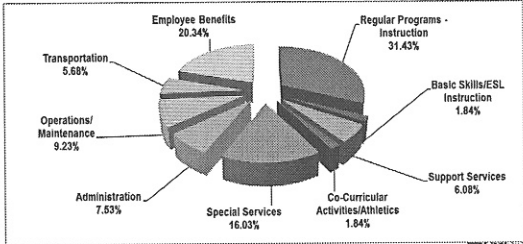
April 29, 2014

Montgomery Township School District




**CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET**

\$76,179,628

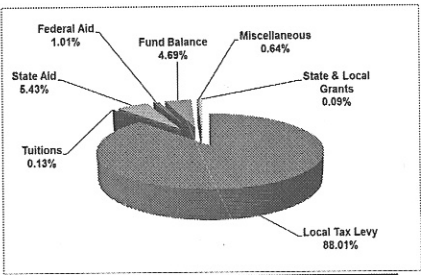


Montgomery Township School District




**REVENUES**

\$85,402,262




Montgomery Township School District



**TAX IMPACT**

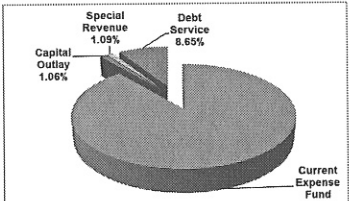
- Montgomery
  - Actual Assessments (+\$600K)
  - Tax Rate +.032/per Hundred
  - Average Assessment \$497,790 = +\$161
- Rocky Hill
  - Actual Assessments (+\$447K)
  - Tax Rate +.051/per Hundred
  - Average Assessment \$406,630 = +\$209

Montgomery Township School District




**BUDGET**

Current Expense	\$76,179,628
Capital Outlay	902,504
Special Revenue Fund*	935,032
Debt Service	7,385,098
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$85,402,262</b>




\*Fund 20 - Monies received for specific purposes (i.e. Grants)


Montgomery Township School District



**QUESTIONS**



Montgomery Township School District



Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board and public.

Mr. Hladick questioned how much the district is spending on state mandates and suggested that the cost could exceed the state aid that is coming into the district. He requested that the administration provide those details to the board since he believes that the district can operate without the mandates and the state funding. The matter was referred to the finance and budget committee for further discussion.

Mrs. Amy Miller questioned if there is an advocate for the district to go to Trenton to lobby for additional state funds and also questioned if the district had a choice in accepting the common core standards. The response was that a few years ago some former board members and the administration did meet with our state legislators to share our concerns about the state aid formula and the funds that should be coming to the district. Residents were encouraged to write letters to our legislators to seek additional state funding for the district. The State of New Jersey was one of 45 states across the nation that agreed to adopt the common core standards. Therefore, since the State had agreed to adopt the common core, districts in the state were required to follow the standards.

Ms. Phyllis Bursh questioned the amount of surplus generated from last year's budget and how much is set aside in next year's budget for emergencies. It was reported that approximately \$4 million was generated from the 2012-13 budget. The only accounts that include funds for emergencies are in the buildings and grounds accounts for unanticipated repairs. It was reported that approximately \$100,000 is included for these expenses. If there are any further emergencies, the board has the option to transfer funds to cover those expenses. In extreme cases, if there aren't any funds available in the district budget, the district can apply to the Executive County Superintendent for permission to appropriate from district fund balance. It was reported that school districts are only allowed to keep a maximum of 2% of operating expenses in fund balance.

### ACTION AGENDA

*A motion was made by Mr. Goldoni and seconded by Mr. Hladick to approve agenda item 3.1 as follows:*

- 3.1 A. Adoption of the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget – that the Board of Education adopt the 2014-2015 proposed budget as follows:

General Fund Current Expense	\$76,179,628
General Fund Capital Outlay	\$ 902,504
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 935,032
Debt Service Fund	\$ 7,385,098
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$85,402,262</b>

B. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – General Fund – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$68,033,428 be raised for General Funds for the ensuing school year (2014-2015).

- Montgomery portion \$66,383,403.13
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 1,650,024.87

C. Amount to be Raised for Taxes – Debt Service – that the Board of Education acknowledge that \$7,128,159 be raised to support the debt service budget for the ensuing school year (2014-2015).

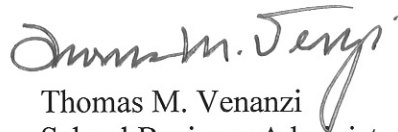
- Montgomery portion \$7,099,709
- Rocky Hill portion \$ 28,450

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with five members voting in favor and Mr. Hladick voting against.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Yu and seconded by Ms. Kirk-Csontos to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Upon call of the question, the motion carried with five members voting in favor and Mr. Hladick voting against.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Venanzi  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary