

MAY 12, 2008

The South Harrison Township Committee held a special meeting on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Mayor Charles T. Tyson called the meeting to order.

Requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were met. Notice of this meeting was given by: (1) sending sufficient notice herewith to the Today's Sunbeam of Salem and the Gloucester County Times of Woodbury; and (2) posting notice on the public bulletin board at the South Harrison Township Municipal Building.

Roll Call: James McCall – present, Cornelius McIntyre – present, Charles Tyson – present, Robert Campbell – present, Gary Spinner – present (L 6:15 pm), William Randazzo, Consultant – present, Nancy Kearns, Municipal Clerk – present.

SH Elementary School Defeated Budget

William Randazzo read his letter and went over his report of the individual line items, the amount, and the justification for his recommendations as follows:

Diversified Resources Unlimited, LLC
647 Betty Rose Avenue
Gibbstown, NJ 08027
EIN: 45-0514525

May 12, 2008

Charles T. Tyson, Mayor and
Council Members
South Harrison Township
PO Box 113
Harrisonville, NJ 08039

Dear Mayor Tyson & Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the South Harrison Township School District's Budget for the FY 2008/2009.

As you know, that budget represents a 3.3 cents/100 of assessed valuation to the taxpayers, and was defeated by some 100 votes on April 15th of this year.

Based upon my review, I feel that the following components of the budget merit further consideration relative to necessity (please see attached).

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Randazzo

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>JUSTIFICATION</u>
Capital Appropriation	\$24,000	No specificity has been provided by the Board as to exactly what would be purchased with this allocation other than "possibly an air-conditioning unit".
Additional Day for Vice Principal	\$11,000	Enrollment has not increased to validate an additional day for the vice principal and the concomitant physical education teacher to substitute for that day.
Purchase of Modular Trailer	\$26,000	As many as four (4) classrooms are available. Some with lavatories (at least two). Current first grade is in prior kindergarten classroom. That room has a lavatory that is not being used and contains boxes. In addition, the building program provided for a PSD classroom with paralleling accommodations.
Shared Service Facilities Mgr.	\$25,000	Recommend contacting Gloucester County Institute of Technology to establish a co-op program. Additionally, suggest contacting South Harrison Township Committee to investigate a shared services jointure to utilize their licensed contractors. Also recommend replacing <u>one</u> of the 3.5 cleaning only contracted custodians with a custodian with more "maintenance skills".
Technology	\$8,000	On at least two separate occasions, the Board indicated that there are grants available to supplement these funds.
Part-Time Administrative Assistant to Child Study Team	\$9,200	Enrollment has not escalated to warrant this expenditure.

New teacher (6 th Grade?)	\$44,000	Enrollment does not warrant an additional teacher for next year's fifth grade. This year, there were two sections of fourth grade. Ergo, there is no impact on student teacher ratio. In the event that enrollment should increase, absent significantly, the services of the instructional assistant, currently budgeted as the second 1:01 kindergarten aide, could be incorporated. An additional resource to address any enrollment increase could be one (1) of the two (2) existing teachers without a dedicated classroom.
Miscellaneous	\$7,000	These line item reduction proposals were offered by the Board as part of their 1.3 cent budget reduction proposal.
Minus Health Care Considerations	\$98,000	On Thursday evening, May 15, 2008, at 8:30 P.M., Sunrise Retirement Solutions will offer a proposal as a result of their review of the District's healthcare expenditures which may result in further tax levy reductions. This presentation will be held in the Municipal Building. I am also recommending that the Board of Education consider re-assigning one of the current first grade teachers to next year's kindergarten program, based upon the number (50) of actual enrollments.
Total Proposed Budget Reduction	\$252,200	
Preliminary Tax Levy Reduction 12.0 cents.		

Committeeman McIntyre asked about the health care considerations and how or if that can change, as it is part of their negotiated contract. Deputy Mayor Campbell stated that the contract allows for a change in carrier, provided that the coverage is equal or greater. Committeeman McIntyre responded that the Committee is to go through the budget numbers; it would be the School Board's decision to change carriers. Deputy Mayor Campbell spoke with Bill Boldizar and he will be here Thursday night to explain his numbers regarding health care.

Open Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by James McCall, second by Charles Tyson. Motion carried.

Dave Datz asked, with a \$5 million budget, if you are cutting out a quarter of a million dollars, don't you think that it is going to affect the children? You don't think cutting a teacher will affect the children? Do you think an aide is not needed when there are 25 students in a classroom? Mr. Datz was advised that this is not concrete and will be discussed in the work session tomorrow night.

Fran Adler states that she got a transportation contract for pre-school disabled that will cost the school \$1,300.00 a week, and that does not include programming. If the school does not meet the compliance we will lose the federal funding.

Debbie Cunningham stated that a health care package could not be decided by the 19th deadline.

Jeanine Campbell stated we knew this was not going to be easy, but the decision has to be what is best for the children. She asked Mr. Randazzo if he has been to the school. Mr. Randazzo replied that is not his job.

Mary Howard stated that Mr. Randazzo would check out the facts and not listen to just the opinions of a few. You need to consider how you are affecting children when you are cutting a teaching position. Looking at dollars and cents does not always give you what you need, some things are based on the need of the class itself.

Denise Menold asked Mr. Randazzo to whom he spoke and when. How did you choose who you were going to talk with? Mr. Randazzo replied that he was approached by parents, after the last two meetings.

Mary Howard stated that if you look back at the voting history most parents have voted to keep the class sizes down. Most people were told there is waste other places and if you talk to parents you will find they want the class ratio low.

William Randazzo stated he is not recommending to cut a teacher; he is recommending taking the proposed new teacher out of the budget.

At this time discussion ensued between the Township Committee, William Randazzo, School Board members and the residents present regarding the budget issues, classroom size, health care and the effect this will have on the children.

Close Meeting to the Public:

Motion to open the meeting to the public was made by James McCall, second by Cornelius McIntyre. Motion carried.

The Committee further discussed the health care issue and how that could happen when the tax levy has to be done by the 19th.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Robert Campbell, second by Gary Spinner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kearns, RMC
Municipal Clerk