

February 21, 2018

The Township Committee met on the above date in a joint meeting with the Chesterfield Board of Education. Board of Education President Jignesh Shah called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting opened with the flag salute and a moment of silence. Roll call was taken showing present: Board of Education members, Vice President, Laura Bond, Christina Hoggan, Amy Jablonski and Terran Brown. From the Township Committee, Mayor Rita Romeu, Deputy Mayor Jeremy Liedtka, Township Committeeman Samuel Davis and Committeewomen Andrea Katz and Denise Koetas-Dale. Also present Township Clerk Caryn Hoyer, Superintendent Mr. Scott Hano and Patrick Pisano.

The Open Public Meetings Act statement was read and compliance noted.

School Funding Discussion

Superintendent Hano and Mr. Pisano gave a presentation on the 2018 school budget. The proposed budget is \$10,658,079 and they have heard that they can count on the same \$821,188 in aid that was received last year. The School Funding Reform Act is underfunded by 1.3 billion and it is not realistic to think this will be fully funded. Chesterfield is receiving only 19% of funding while 35% of the school districts are overfunded. Mr. Hano stated that the local fair share for Chesterfield is around 7 million while the taxpayers are being charged 9 million because we do not receive our fair share of aid. Mr. Hano discussed what has worked in getting the additional aid last year.

Mr. Shah thanked Mayor Rita Romeu and the rest of the Township Committee for joining them tonight. Mr. Shah said his goal is to leave tonight with a plan for fair funding.

Mayor Romeu thanked everyone in the community for helping with fair funding. She said that the Township Committee stands behind the Board of Education. Mayor Romeu asked that the BOE give the Township regular updates so we can get it out to the community.

Assemblyman Dancer was present and stated that Senator Thompson has already met with the Acting Commissioner and Chesterfield School aid was the top subject. He stated they have a commitment from the Commissioner that he will meet with Senator Thompson and Assemblymen Clifton and Dancer, Jay Shah and Scott Hano before the March 13th budget address. DO not let up with the phone calls and letters.

Freeholder Mr. Singh was also present and stated he is a public school teacher in a district that is underfunded as well. Hopefully the word will get to the top and something will get done. Anything he can do at the County level let him know.

Ms. Katz read a letter from Senator Sweeney regarding fair funding (attached).

Christina Hogan feels that better communication is needed. She would like to have a calendar put together in order to keep track of what is being done with fair funding. She suggests that all ideas get emailed to Mr. Hano and he will then forward to the Board President and Township Mayor. They will then send to their members.

Laura Bond wants better communication as well. Suggests that the school gets a twitter account and that the Township website gets a twitter feed. She would like to see clear plan on how we are going to move forward. The grassroots movement is working. There is a wealth and talent between the Board of Education and Township a Committee and to work with the strength of each member.

Deputy Mayor Liedtka thanked Assemblyman Dancer for attending the meeting and says he is in for the fight. We need to keep the pressure on Trenton. Tax pilot programs in a lot of communities do not help the schools.

Ms. Katz thanked the community for continuing their hard work over the last two years. The fight has not been just about Chesterfield. She believes we should continue to work in concert with the many districts that are underfunded. Power is in the numbers. Senator Sweeney has been a huge help but it needs to continue. We need to work to refine the message. She would like to everyone on the same page and giving he same message. She suggests we come up with a Chesterfield Fair Funding "hash tag".

Denise Koetas-Dale thanked everyone for coming out. She agrees on getting a calendar together of all the events and continuing the concerted effort.

Sam Davis stated that while he was on the Board of Education 3-4 years ago they tried and got nowhere. He believes this community is strong and will be successful..

Ms. Katz stated the message needs to be worked on as this year is going to be different because aid is being taken away from some districts.

Dr. Brown agrees there will be more tension this year. Some advocates don't' want to see any aid loss. Part of the message has to be that some are going to lose funding but money needs to follow the child.

Ms. Jablonski stated the adjustment aid needs to go. No one is a loser. Any district whose aid is reduced would still be getting 100%. Everyone should be getting 100%.

Mr. Shah opened the meeting to public comment.

Jennifer Cavallaro - Co Chair of of Fair Funding Advocacy Committee. This is a grassroots group. She believes that if everyone partners together they can win the fight.

Chris Fay – Fair Funding Advocacy Committee – Stated underfunded 2 billion dollars and is not going to get funded, but 700 million is going to overfunded districts. Joining together is the best thing to do.

Vanessa Alfano - 86 Bordentown-Crosswicks Rd. wants to see new BOE members strengths utilized. She would like to see a time-line and a plan of action tonight. She also wants to know why this is not being communicated by sending information home with the children in their back packs. She feels we need to do more.

Shelly Varias - 123 Colemantown Rd. - says she doesn't know what her children are lacking in school with the budget cuts. She would like to know what other schools are getting that we are not getting as a result of this.

Jackie Halaw - 71 Bord-Chesterfield Rd. - She spoke about everything that the other districts are getting vs what Chesterfield is not.

Anita Dowlat - 84 Bord-Crosswicks Rd. – She does not believe a lot of people in this school understand what is going on. She is very upset about lack of school funding and feels that the BOE needs to communicate better to the community.

Stephanie Santora - 39 Recklesstown Way - wants to know how we got this far. She stated the real life scenarios that Jackie Halaw shared really hit home. She is very unhappy with the BOE and their lack of communication. The information needs to get to our community.

Shamita Kumar – 39 Harness Way – There are only a few ideas mention that are any good. Why have we only heard from Andrea? A lot of people are tired of how the BOE is being urn. The BOE is not at any functions. She wants to see the BOE roll up their sleeves and do something.

Jessica Wszolek - 70 Harness Way – She stated she receives a lot of communication home on the referendum for Northern. She wants better communication and information to be sent home with the kids. She believes that the school fair funding information needs to go home with children on paper not email.

Maggie Brittain - 19 New Bold Lane – She thanked Andrea Katz for everything she does. Ms. Brittain said that she put together a video about fair funding and she asks that everyone “share” it once it's complete, which should be around March 1st. She would like to “share” it with our legislators too.

Hearing no more public comment, the discussion among the BOE and Township Committee continued.

Anything that effects fair funding should be sent to Mr. Hano so that everyone knows what everyone is doing. There was a lot of discussion regarding the message and communication, ect. Ms. Katz stated we don't need to reinvent the wheel. BOE was concerned that we need to have everyone involved. Mr. Hano stated the reason for a central person is to coordinate. This is not a road block but if something is “off the wall” he will questions. Ms. Jablonski just wants to make sure we can get everything done.

Ms. Koetas-Dale asked what the talking points and message. Mr. Hano has most of that information.

Christina Hogan made numerous motions to have the following sub-committees formed:

- Messinging/Communication – getting info out, hashtags, etc. Mr. Hano has the information
- Community outreach – to work with grassroots organizations local and statewide
- Legislative Committee – to do letter writing, etc.

At 9:26pm the BOE meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Jay seconded by Ms. Hoggan.

The BOE meeting went into the library to continue their meeting in order for the Township Committee to continue their meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the February 8th, 2018 minutes. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Katz to adopt Resolution 2018-2-8. All were in favor.

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD
RESOLUTION 2018-2-8**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF PROPERTY TAX
OVERPAYMENTS ON MULTIPLE PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, many residents prepaid 2018 taxes prior to the end of 2017; and

WHEREAS, one property is tax exempt due to 100% disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, the real estate servicing agent, Corelogic, made the 2018 first quarter payment; and

WHEREAS, the bulk payment made by Corelogic created overpayments on the 2018 first quarter taxes; and

WHEREAS, the mortgage companies have requested the overpayments be refunded to Corelogic; and

WHEREAS, the overpayments are outlined as follows:

| <u>BLOCK</u> | <u>LOT</u> | <u>LAST NAME</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| 107.02 | 5 | Cereste | \$3,602.72 |
| 107.09 | 5 | Rana | \$3,217.81 |
| 107.11 | 2 | Yerra/Sadineni | \$3,580.12 |
| 107.12 | 2 | Raghuwahshi | \$3,391.31 |
| 107.16 | 3 | Thareja/Jairath | \$3,513.78 |
| 107.17 | 16 | Tekulapally | \$3,158.03 |
| 107.17 | 17 | Kandhagadla | \$3,040.66 |
| 202.02 | 5 | Payne | \$4,445.45 |
| 202.03 | 1 | Brown | \$4,309.12 |
| 202.07 | 27 | Narahari | \$2,991.09 |
| 202.08 | 1 | Gautam | \$3,152.93 |

| | | | |
|---------|-------|------------------|------------|
| 202.08 | 18 | Vuppala | \$3,044.31 |
| 202.09 | 6 | Keshireddy | \$2,843.10 |
| 202.10 | 12 | Tummala | \$3,131.79 |
| 202.13 | 6 | Pizzillo | \$2,806.65 |
| 202.16 | 9 | Jablonka | \$3,397.14 |
| 202.20 | 4 | Mitchell | \$3,607.10 |
| 202.21 | 6 | Ananthanarayanan | \$3,507.95 |
| 202.22 | 3 | Jonnalagadda | \$2,934.23 |
| 202.22 | 5 | Ashish | \$3,062.53 |
| 202.22 | 10 | Howell | \$3,134.70 |
| 202.26 | 7 | Cooper | \$3,093.88 |
| 202.27 | 9 | Vaddadi | \$2,770.20 |
| 202.29 | 7 | Horaginamani | \$3,060.35 |
| 202.32 | 1 | Mohideen | \$3,244.05 |
| 202.33 | 3 | Nagineni | \$3,152.93 |
| 202.36 | 3 | Dalal | \$2,882.47 |
| 202.40 | 4 | Brahmbhatt | \$3,127.41 |
| 202.45 | 4 | Chintah | \$2,961.20 |
| 202.100 | 3 | Batra | \$2,870.81 |
| 202.101 | 5 | Montera | \$2,886.12 |
| 202.104 | 1 | Hadamthottukara | \$2,885.39 |
| 202.110 | 2 | D'Oria | \$3,289.25 |
| 202.111 | 2 | Toor | \$3,306.02 |
| 202.121 | 3 | Peraty/Mudiyala | \$2,884.66 |
| 202.122 | 12 | Long | \$3,282.69 |
| 206.200 | 5 | Check | \$2,655.75 |
| 206.200 | 7 | Elsea/McCabe | \$2,958.29 |
| 206.205 | 3 | Nagulavancha | \$2,762.91 |
| 206.206 | 3 | Nalluru | \$3,400.06 |
| 206.207 | 7 | Capritti | \$1,743.75 |
| 206.208 | 4 | Patel | \$3,340.28 |
| 206.213 | 6 | Shah | \$2,571.19 |
| 206.215 | 1 | Sarikonda | \$3,877.56 |
| 206.215 | 3 | Shah | \$2,293.14 |
| 206.215 | 4 | Aravelli | \$3,706.97 |
| 206.216 | 3 | Cirigliano | \$1,201.03 |
| 206.220 | 5 | Emukapati | \$ 535.78 |
| 206.224 | 1 | Kambhampati | \$ 624.78 |
| 302.02 | 1 | D'Angelo | \$3,408.81 |
| 700 | 21.03 | Jablonski | \$2,540.55 |
| 901 | 3.04 | Laird | \$3,522.80 |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund the overpayments in the amount of \$156,713.60 to Corelogic, Attn: Refund Department, P. O. Box 961250, Fort Worth, TX 76161.

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Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Katz to adopt Resolution 2018-2-9. All were in favor.



With no further comment, Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Katz to close public comment. All were in favor.

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Katz to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fryc  
Deputy Township Clerk