

VIRTUAL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Special Legislative Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Cheltenham School District was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 6:19 p.m. virtually via Zoom meeting. The meeting was called to order by President: Ms. Haywood. Those present were: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. England, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Burdell -Williams, Mr. Scott, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Pender, Dr. Smith – Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Marseille – Superintendent, Mr. Roos - Solicitor, Ms. Michaels, Business Manager, and Mrs. Mance -Secretary.

The following members of the staff were present:

Mr. Barone, Director of Technology
Ms. Collins, Director of Secondary Education
Mr. Kaufman, Director of Communications
Ms. Tolbert- Jackson, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Gallagher, Director of Special Education
Dr. Cheryl Horsey, Director of Student Services
Mr. Teasdale, Director of Facilities

There were 2 attendees were online for the virtual board meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cheltenham Board member Mr. Schultz.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Pasty Jarvis, Cheltenham submitted the following question via email: Last year at this time, the Board voted to commit \$2,733,728 of Fund Balance to the 2019-2020 budget. But we understand that now, at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, there is effectively a balanced budget and the Fund Balance will not be needed to balance the budget. Given this year’s performance, why is the Board going to commit any fund balance money (\$1,099,634) to next year’s budget?

Ms. Michaels responded to her question.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Adoption of Budget Tax Levy
Approval of Fund Balance Designation

Upon motion by Mr. Burdell -Williams, seconded by Mr. Pender, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee the Board approves the final budget for the Cheltenham School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and authorization of the appropriation and expenditure of the funds as itemized in said Budget during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, in the amount of \$121,028,381 (approximately a 1.03% decrease). The necessary revenue for the same shall be provided by the following taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, adopted concurrently herewith:

- 1 . A Real Estate Transfer Tax of one percent (1%) to be shared equally between the Township of Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half (½) of the Real Estate Transfer Tax;
- 2 . A Mercantile License Tax on (i) wholesale vendors or dealers in goods, wares at the rate of one (1) mill on each dollar of gross volume of business and (ii) retail vendors or dealers in goods, wares, and merchandise at the rate of one and one-half (1½) mills on each dollar of the gross volume of retail business transacted within the School District during the license year to be shared equally between the Township of Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half (½) of the Mercantile License Tax;
3. A tax on net profits earned on businesses, professions, and other activities conducted by residents of the School District of Cheltenham Township and on salaries, wages, commissions, and other compensation earned by residents of the Cheltenham School District is imposed by the School District at the flat rate of one percent (1%) to be shared equally between the Township of

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
(continued)

Cheltenham and the Cheltenham School District where each receives one-half (½) of the Earned Income Tax.

4. A Local Services Tax (LST) in the amount of Five Dollars (\$5.00), by virtue of the fact that the Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham have enacted a LST in the amount of \$ 52.00 similar to the Resolution imposing a like tax by the Cheltenham School District.

5. A school tax on real estate at a rate of 49.5325 mills (2.6% increase), or at the rate of \$4.95325 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property shall be levied upon all the property upon which the County of Montgomery taxes are levied and assessed.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England.

Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS
Approval of Reading Series

Upon motion by Mr. Fishbein, seconded by Mr. Schultz, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee the Board gives approval to commit \$1,099,634 of fund balance for the 2020-21 budget and \$2,000,000 for Capital Projects.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England.

Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Approval of
Homestead/Farmstead
Exclusion
Approval of Real Estate Tax
Installment Payments
Resolution
Approval of Real Estate Tax
Discount and Penalty
Periods
Approval of Real Estate Tax
Collection for Fiscal Year
2020-2021

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Henry, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the Administration the Board approves Wonders as the primary reading resource for Grades K-5 in the Cheltenham School District. We also recommend the adoption of myPerspectives as the primary reading resource for Grades 6 in the Cheltenham School District not to exceed \$423,000.00.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England.

Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

Upon motion by Mr. Fishbein, seconded by Mr. Schultz, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the County Assessor has certified to the School District that there are 7,877 eligible homestead properties in the School District and no eligible farmstead properties in the School District for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and;

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has certified that the School District's Property Tax Reduction Allocation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is \$3,509,421;

In accordance with the Special Session Act 1 of 2006, known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, the Board of School Directors hereby establishes the following homestead exclusion and farmstead exclusion, for the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

1. All eligible homesteads shall receive a homestead exclusion of \$8,994.70 of the assessed value of the homestead, which, based upon the millage rate established for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, corresponds to a tax reduction of \$445.53
2. All eligible farmsteads shall receive a farmstead exclusion of \$8,994.70 of the assessed value of the farmstead, which, based upon the millage rate established for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, corresponds to a tax reduction of \$445.53

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
(continued)

3. The Tax Collector shall itemize the exclusion on each eligible homestead and eligible farmstead owner's annual property tax bill, showing (a) the assessed value, (b) the tax liability on the assessed value, (c) the amount of the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion in assessed value, (d) the actual tax liability after the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion and (e) the actual tax savings associated with the homestead and/or farmstead exclusion.
4. The Tax Collector shall also have the following notice included with the tax bills of all owners of eligible homestead and farmstead properties:

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Your enclosed tax bill includes a tax reduction for your homestead and/or farmstead property. As an eligible homestead and/or farmstead property owner, you have received tax relief through a homestead and/or farmstead exclusion which has been provided under the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Relief Act, a law passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly designed to reduce your property taxes.

These provisions shall apply to the annual property tax bills issued in July 2020 and not to any interim real estate tax bill.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England.
Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Pender, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the administration, the Board approves the following resolution be adopted approving the Real Estate Tax Installment Payments to meet Special Session Act 1 of 2006 and the 2020-2021 budget requirements of the School District.

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to offer installment payments for real estate property taxes and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors intends to comply with this regulation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the School District of Cheltenham Township establishes installment payments as follows:

- Installment payments will be available to all properties to comply with Act 25.
- Installment payments will be made in three equal payments due on or before the last banking day of **September, October, and November** of the applicable tax year.
- Discounts are not permitted.
- Failure to make the first installment payment by the established due date will disqualify the taxpayer from the installment payment program for the applicable year.
- If complete payments are not received by December 31, 2020, the entire penalty indicated on the bill will be assessed.
- A taxpayer who is delinquent by more than ten days on two installment payments shall be ineligible for the installment payment option in the following fiscal year.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England.
Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
(continued)

Upon motion by Mr. Fishbein, seconded by Mr. Schultz, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the administration, the Board approves the following for the 2020-21 budget year only:

If paid in full by Friday, October 2, 2020, the 2020-21 tax references above will be entitled to a discount of 2%; thereafter, the 2020-21 tax references above will be subject to a penalty of 0% through December 31, 2020. All such 2020-21 taxes that remain unpaid as of December 31, 2020, shall be subject to a penalty of 10% considered delinquent and treated as such for all purposes. On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England. Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Pender, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, upon recommendation of the administration, the Board approves the fiscal year 2020-21 the final date for real estate tax payments in discount period be Friday, October 2, 2020 and for the face period and zero penalty period be Thursday, December 31, 2020.

On roll call, the following voted in the affirmative: Mr. Cohen, Ms. Haywood, Mr. Burdell - Williams, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Henry, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pender, and Mr. England. Absent: None. Negative: None. Motion adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Napoleon Nelson, the Cheltenham Township Finance Officer, thanked the board for providing extensions in real estate taxes for residents that are struggling to make ends meet. However, I also want to announce publicly the Dec 15th deadline for residents to pay their taxes using personal checks.

Ms. Michaels clarified that December 15, 2020 is the Townships date, not the School Districts date.

Christian Nguyen, asked when will school reopen.

Dr. Marseille responded all schools are scheduled to reopen on Monday, August 31, 2020.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Fishbein and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

DocuSigned by
Crystal Mance
A1482151C7D580A

Secretary

DocuSigned by
Julie Haywood
BFAAFA16164431

President