

The Board of Education of the Borough of North Caldwell in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in executive session on April 4, 2017, to have a Public Presentation on a possible expansion of North Caldwell Schools, in the Grandview School Cafeteria, Hamilton Drive East, North Caldwell, NJ, at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator, indicated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting had been properly advertised and the agenda had been posted at the appropriate locations.

Roll call by the Business Administrator:

Present: Mr. Robert Projansky, President  
Mrs. Valerie Buccino, Vice President  
Mrs. Mindy Opper  
Mrs. Jann Skelton  
Mrs. Mary Mokris

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Linda Freda, Superintendent  
Mr. Michael Halik, Business Administrator / Board Secretary  
Mr. Allen Barnett, DiCara/Rubino Architects  
Andrea Kahn, Esq., McManimon & Scotland, Esquires  
Mary Lyons, Phoenix Advisors

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Projansky introduced the attendees who would be participating in the evening's presentation. He discussed the Board's goal to implement inclusive and iterative long and short-term planning processes and the steps that have been taken as part of that implementation, including the conduct of two (2) demographic studies and assessment of anticipated short and long-term facility needs.

Mr. Projansky expressed to the community that the Board is in the discussion phase regarding the proposed referendum, and views community engagement as an important part of the process because it provides the Board with a better understanding of community needs, concerns and priorities - a critical data point. He stated that communication and transparency also help build consensus around the decisions ultimately made, which is particularly important when we are talking about decisions of this magnitude that will affect the district for years to come.

Mr. Projansky stated the time line in the presentation is a guide-line, but is not set in stone. We will take as much time as necessary to make sure the Board makes the best decision to represent the needs and input of the community.

Mr. Barnett then reviewed a presentation explaining the referendum process. He pointed out the reasons for this undertaking (including addressing population growth, current special issues and facility improvement needs). He also clarified the various options under consideration, the projected cost and potential tax impact of each option and the possible schedule of completion.

In addition to the presentation by Mr. Barnett, both Ms. Lyons and Ms. Kahn explained how the district could acquire funding, interest rates regarding the funding and financial impact on taxpayers.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

The following residents asked questions regarding the proposed referendum:

Wendy Brosse, 58 Beachmont Terrace - asked if the sixth grade could go to West Essex Regional, how much we still owe on debt service, how the meeting was publicized and the effect on the treeline.

Michelle Kupferberg, 2 Kenwood Court - discussed concerns with maintaining small class sizes based on the projected number of new students. She also expressed concerns regarding per household impact due to construction.

Julia Petrella, 611 Mountain Avenue - asked that the Board provide information to parents whose children attend West Essex

Josh Mandell, 31 Brookside Terrace - asked about traffic impact on Mountain and the need for air conditioning in both schools

Jocelyn Kramer, 47 Hamilton Drive East - asked about drainage issues from Grandview parking lot and if the Gould garden would be moved

Liz Kamiel, 32 Evergreen - asked for clarification on the term "unhoused students" and whether the Board had considered "building up" as an option.

Alex Opper, 8 Brentwood Drive - inquired as to the number of classrooms and what impact staffing for the new classrooms would have on the operational budget

Frank Astorino, North Caldwell Borough Council - talked about the changes in town with the addition of housing and development

Arthur Rees, North Caldwell Borough Council – talked about the changes in town with the addition of housing and development

Jason Ginsberg, 11 Elm Place – discussed air conditioning in the classrooms

Joshua Raymond, 33 Oak Place – Thanked the Board for taking a proactive long range approach and for maintaining open communication with the community. He also stressed that people move into town for the school system.

Mr. Projansky stated that the Finance Committee had discussed briefly a potential Option 3, which would be to move the third grade to the Gould/Mountain School and expand it accordingly. The Board asked the Architect to explore this option.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Halik  
Business Administrator / Board Secretary