PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The Public Hearing of the 2026-2027 School Budget took place in the Board Room, 172 Midland Avenue, Kearny, N.J. 07032, on the evening of the above date.

President Paris called the meeting to order and announced that in accordance with Chapter 231, Laws of 1975, Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was printed in the online Star Ledger and the online Observer. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the District website and filed with the Office of the Town Clerk.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Burke, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lindenfelser, Mr. McKenna Mrs. Pettigrew, Mr. Soares, Mr. Viscuso and President Paris.

Mrs. Flora Encarnacao, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Aliki Bieltz, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Juan Faciolince, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mark Bruscino, Director of Operations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Paris led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Dr. Boyd

DISCUSSION OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Faciolince, Business Administrator/Board Secretary discussed the proposed 2026-2027 school budget, which included a PowerPoint presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2026/2027 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET

1. **ADOPTION OF 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education does hereby adopt the Preliminary 2026/2027 School Year **GENERAL FUND BUDGET**, as follows:

GROSS BUDGET	**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION**
$198,795,735.	$61,785,828.

2. **ADOPTION OF 2026/2027 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGET**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education does hereby adopt the Preliminary 2026/2027 School Year **SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BUDGET**, as follows:

GROSS BUDGET	**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION**
$19,984,073.	$ -0-

3. **ADOPTION OF 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGET**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education does hereby adopt the Preliminary 2026/2027 School Year **DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGET**, as follows:

GROSS BUDGET	**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION**
$2,000,000.	$-0-

4. **CAPITAL RESERVE – WITHDRAWAL AMOUNT**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education includes in the 2026-2027 budget a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of $45,000,000 for the Lincoln Middle School Addition. $43,000,000 going towards the construction and $2,000,000 for the Lease Payments.

5. **CAPITAL RESERVE - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education includes in the 2026-2027 budget a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of $45,000,000 for the Lincoln Middle School Addition and Lease Payments.

6. **APPROVAL OF 2026/2027 TRAVEL MAXIMUM**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education does hereby establish the school district travel maximum for the 2026/2027 school year at the sum of $25,000; and be it further resolved, that the School Business Administrator, in accordance with 6A:23A-7.3, shall track and record these costs to insure the maximum amount is not exceeded, and that the pre-budget year maximum was $25,000 and the total spent to date is $2,931.71.

7. **APPROVAL OF TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2026-2027**

Proposed Resolution

Resolved: That the Kearny Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board Members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

And, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

And, the Kearny Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $150. per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given year (July 1 through June 30);

And, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the Kearny Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Kearny Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

Be It Resolved, the Kearny Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Kearny Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

Be It Further Resolved, the Kearny Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of $25,000 for all staff and board members for the 2026–2027 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

OBSERVERS

Mrs. Pettigrew, Board Member, asked whether the $2,000,000 payment for the loan from the Hudson County Office is included in the budget?

Mr. Faciolince, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, stated that the payment is included in the budget. If you look at the Debt Service Fund, the $2,000,000 that the district is transferring from its Capital Reserve for the loan is included in the 2026/2027 Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2026-2027 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET - Mr. Faciolince
Items 1 -7

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Burke "aye", Mr. Carey "aye", Ms. Lindenfelser "aye", Mr. McKenna "aye", Mrs. Pettigrew "aye", Mr. Soares "aye", Mr. Viscuso "aye" and President Paris "aye".

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Viscuso, Board Member, asked in regards to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Notice of Public Hearing regarding an application from iLearn Schools, Inc. for an addition to the property owned by St. Stephen's Catholic Church. We cannot attend the zoning meetings but I did not see anything that would really affect what we want to do.

Mrs. Flora Encarnacao, Superintendent of Schools, stated that is correct. There is nothing that we can see so far from what we received.

MOTION RE: ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Burke, seconded by Mr. Soares and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Faciolince

Juan Faciolince
Business Administrator/Board Secretary