



#### **4. Real Estate Tax Appeals**

Motion: To approve the settlement agreement for NHS Human Services, Inc.

#### **5. MN Music Parents Association Choir Donation**

Motion: To accept donation in the amount of \$384.95 from Marple Newtown Music Parents Association Choir to purchase "Finale" software for the High School.

#### **6. Loomis Elementary PTO**

Motion : To accept donation in the amount of \$195.00 from Loomis Elementary School PTO to purchase "Brain Pop" software for Loomis Elementary School.

#### **7. 2010-2011 Budget Update**

Mr. Joseph Driscoll stated that the preliminary budget was available for public inspection online. Whereas some people had difficulty finding the link from the MNSD website, Mr. Driscoll has addressed the issue with the webmaster, and a more user-friendly link has been established. Exceptions have been advertised. The next issue the Board will need to address is the budget gap and how it can be closed. Mr. Driscoll then stated that March 19 is the deadline to submit questions for referendum.

Mr. Richard Sokorai asked how such questions were typically worded, i.e. can the question say "Will you approve an additional 2% in taxes to balance the budget?"

Mr. Driscoll responded that usually questions are generated to tie into what the funding will be used to accomplish, i.e. "Do you support a tax increase to support transportation?" If the referendum does not pass, then transportation costs must be cut. The best approach is to examine the preliminary budget and identify where cuts can be made, then ask for money accordingly. He then cautioned the Board to expect the referendums to fail, and to build in time to make cuts in an efficient amount of time. He said that only one referendum question has passed since the inception of this Act.

Mr. Fred Dewey asked if a question could be pulled from the ballot once it has been submitted. Mr. Driscoll responded that that is a question for the Board of Elections. He also stated that good PR is necessary to promote the needs behind the referendum questions.

Mr. Joseph Rufo stated that it seems anti-productive to do a referendum question if it is going to probably fail, and the Board will have to make cuts anyway. Mr. Driscoll responded that, if the exceptions are given, we will have an additional 8% in our budget. We need 12% to balance. Even though the likelihood is to fail, should the referendum pass it will be extremely helpful.

#### **8. Budget Expansion**

There was no discussion.

## **9. New or Additional Business**

There was no new or additional business.

## **10. Public Comment**

Mrs. Suzanne McCutcheon of Newtown Square stated that West Chester Area School District started a community Budget task force in September. Information regarding their findings and activities could be found on the WCASD website. She asked the Board and Administration to examine it to see if there was anything there that might help our district.

## **11. Adjournment**

With no further discussion, Mr. Dewey adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.