

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING**

**July 7, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

A Public Meeting of the Elected School Board of Directors of the Chester Upland School District was held this evening at the Administration Building of the Chester Upland School District located at 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania.

School Board Members Present:

- Ms. Bettie McClairen, President
- Mr. Anthony Johnson, Vice President
- Ms. Tyra Quail, Secretary
- Mr. William Riley, Treasurer
- Ms. Beverly Harris, Member
- Ms. Wanda Mann, Member
- Ms. Joan Neal, Member
- Mr. Charlie Warren, II, Member
- Mr. Cephus Richardson

Solicitor: Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

The Board of School Director's meeting opened with a call to order by President, Bettie McClairen and the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Shelton, Sr. – Wanted to know if it was necessary to raise taxes and if we had raised taxes in the last few years. He was upset about this and spoke about the poor in the City and those on fixed incomes.

Wanda Mann answered that the reason for the tax raise was because they hadn't been raised in many a year and the Recovery Plan states that this is the position for the Board. She also stated that they are not all in agreement. She stated that the district has a gap and that the Board has to show that they are willing to support our children in their education.

Mr. Shelton asked if there were other ways besides raising taxes. He asked if we've come up with a decision.

Ms. Mann stated that they had not discussed this and that the raising of the taxes was a decision that was worked on by the administration and Receiver. The Board has not had any in-depth conversations about this. She also stated that as far as the seniors are concerned, they are looking at the Homestead Act and that will be a large amount of money because of your refund. She said that she was just putting that out there, but it hadn't been discussed. She reiterated, "Where will you get the money," and said that she didn't have any answer for that unless it is the refund through the Homestead Act.

Ms. Mann went on to say that we are all concerned about the joblessness and that is why we are concerned about the education for our young people. If we can do other than feeding the pipeline to where they are putting most of the money which is prison.

Mr. Shelton said that he agreed but that it is difficult to handle because of lack of participation. What are they getting as taxpayers.

Mrs. Delores Shelton stated that she understood that we have to do what we have to do for our children and that she knows that taxes are a burden. She hopes that we are not balancing this budget on the backs of teachers and not everyone. If the teachers are going to take a cut, then everyone should take a cut.

John Shelton, Jr. was called to speak but he was not at the meeting yet.

Mr. Dennis Martinelli implored the Board to pass the taxes for the sake of the children. He said that there are teachers, coaches, etc. that work in this District and live in Chester but send their children elsewhere. He believes that if these children went to the Chester schools, we wouldn't have so many budget problems.

BUSINESS AGENDA

A-1 Approval of Resolution to levy and raise real estate taxes for the 2014-2015 school year

President McClairen called for a motion to vote for the approval of the Real Estate taxes.

Cephus Richardson moved for the vote for the Real Estate Taxes to be raised 3.4% for the 2014-2015 school year. Charlie Warren II seconded the motion.

The role was called for the Vote:

Tyra Quail – Secretary	No
William Riley – Treasurer	Yes
Beverly Harris	No
Wanda Mann	No
Charlie Warren, II	Yes
Joan Neal	Yes
Cephus Richardson	Yes
Anthony Johnson – VP	Yes

Mr. Johnson explained the importance of the tax raise to the school district. He stated that the money raised was for the good of the children and that the tax payers owed it to the children of this district for them to have a good education and that this money will help the district give those children the education they deserve. He said that we have to give a little to get the most out for our kids.

Bettie McClairen – President Yes

Ms. McClairen reiterated that the tax raise was needed for the district. She said that she believed that the taxes hadn't been raised in years and that, if the children of the district were to have a chance at a good education within our district, the money was needed for this.

The Yeses have it in a 6-3 vote.

BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM A-1 WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS.

There being no further business, ***President, Bettie McClairen*** adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm

CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Bettie McClairen

Date