



bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Fwd: Statement regarding public Budget meeting

Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@me.com>
To: bh communitywatch <bhcommunitywatch1@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 1:34 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laura Kapuscinski
Subject: Re: Statement regarding public Budget meeting
Date: March 9, 2023 at 1:10:13 PM EST
To: "Stanley, Pamela" <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>
Cc: Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, BOE Foregger <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, Robert Cianciulli <rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org>, Jordan Hyman <jhyman@bhpsnj.org>, Joy Young <jyoung@bhpsnj.org>

Millburn has the budget I referenced earlier, attached below:

New Providence does a similar process to Millburn; holding a public meeting to review and discuss the tentative budget PRIOR to the initial vote (which occurs 2+ weeks after it's public reveal - giving the Finance committee time to make changes after public and Board input), in addition to a detailed schedule of budget planning which is a highly transparent process.

<https://www.npsd.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01001216/Centricity/Domain/3/BUDGET%20TIMELINE%2023-24%20Revised.pdf>

Lastly, **Westfield** has an equally transparent process involving multiple public meeting with Board members and residents, similar to Millburn, also attached.

<https://sites.google.com/westfieldnj12.org/april-vote-2023/resources-details>

To be honest, I'm shocked that you are asking me for information regarding Budgets for neighboring towns. Due diligence is part of the responsibility of Board members.

But, it's not about comparing Budgets, it's about the lack of transparency surrounding the Budget and the process by the Board and the Administration.

You and your Board members should be doing **at least as much or better** than our neighboring towns rather than seeming elusive and combative when questioned about yet another deeply flawed process that was promised to "be better."

-Laura

On Mar 9, 2023, at 8:58 AM, Stanley, Pamela <pstanley@bhpsnj.org> wrote:

Would you please forward the NP budget to us?

Thank you,
Pamela

On Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 8:16 AM Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@me.com> wrote:
Hi Angela,

Every year the state aid numbers are released on 4th Tuesday of February and this year was no different, those numbers were released 2/28.

New Providence and other districts were able to have a tentative version of budget ready for public review and input before their tentative budget adoption, without state aid numbers.

Please stop these games.

Thank you,
Laura

> On Mar 8, 2023, at 10:42 PM, Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org> wrote:

>

> Hi Ms Kapuscinski,

>

> When I gave my report on 2/1 at the BH PTO meeting the intention had been to have a public finance committee meeting prior to the tentative budget presentation. However, we only received our state aid numbers on Thursday 3/2 and the finance/facilities committee needed to meet again to further discuss and finalize on Monday evening 3/6.

>

> The committee will still be having a Public Finance meeting after the tentative budget presentation on 3/13, and before final budget approval on 4/27. Once a date has been determined for that public meeting, information will go out to the public. The tentative budget will also be made available to the public after it has been presented, and approved by the board on Monday 3/13.

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> Kind regards,

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> Angela Penna

> President, Berkeley Heights Board of Education

> Berkeley Heights Public Schools

> apenna@bhpsnj.org

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> On Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 9:10 AM Laura Kapuscinski <llkap@me.com> wrote:

> Angela, et al.

>

> I am writing to inquire about the Board report you provided at the February 1, 2023 BH PTO meeting in which you stated, and the official minutes reflect:

>

> 'There will be a public finance meeting before the initial budget is adopted at the 3/13 meeting.'

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> I am curious why no public meeting prior to the tentative budget adoption has been scheduled, as you promised, to address the concerns presented over the process from last year?

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> Will a public meeting be held, as promised?

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> Also, when can the public anticipate to see a copy of the tentative budget?


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> Thank you,

>

> Laura Kapuscinski

2 attachments

 **2023-24 Budget Discussion 2_27_23.pptx.pdf**
2141K

 **NPBOEBudgetTimeline2023-24.pdf**
74K