

1 **OFFICIAL MINUTES**

2
3 of the **REGULAR MEETING** of the Greenwich Township Board of Education held
4 **Monday, February 13, 2012** in the Nehaunsey Middle School Library.

5
6 The meeting was called to order by President Jason Murschell at 6:32 p.m.

7
8 Roll Call:

- 9
10 Jason Murschell
11 James Worrell (excused himself @ 7:35 p.m. and returned at 10:11 p.m.)
12 Alan Boultinghouse
13 Louis Fabiani
14 Roseanne Lombardo
15 Lisa Morina
16 Susan Vernacchio

17
18 Also present were Mr. Vincent Tarantino, Interim Superintendent/Principal and Mr. Scott
19 A. Campbell, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

20
21 As required under the guidelines of the Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this meeting
22 was sent to the ***The Gloucester County Times, The Courier Post*** and the ***Township***
23 ***Clerk***. It was also posted in the Greenwich Township School Buildings. (Optional:
24 Videotaping Regulations – “The proceedings of this meeting are being videotaped and
25 anyone wishing to discuss an individual child should so note.”)

26
27 **OPENING PROCEDURES**

28
29 **1. PRESENTATION BY THE AUDITORS – BOWMAN & COMPANY, LLC**

30
31 Michael Welding from Bowman & Company, LLC presented an overview of the
32 Greenwich Township Board of Education Comprehensive Annual Financial
33 Report Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011 and Auditor’s Management Report on
34 Administrative Findings, Financial, Compliance and Performance – Fiscal Year
35 Ending June 30, 2011.

36
37 ***Susan Vernacchio*** wanted Mr. Welding to explain to the entire board how the
38 ***tax levy works and the budget process.*** ***Mr. Welding*** replied that there is a 2%
39 ***levy cap and on that 2% levy cap, it is based on dollars; not the rate. He said the***
40 ***board should be able to build this year’s budget within the levy cap. The issue is***
41 ***with the ratables. What the refineries used to pay is going to now be distributed***
42 ***among the residents. You can keep your levy the same but the taxes would***
43 ***increase because the value of the town is down. That is the predicament that***
44 ***Greenwich Township is in right now.*** ***Lisa Morina*** asked Mr. Welding if based on
45 ***his past experiences if he has seen a municipality or school system have a long-***

1 term detriment because they are trying to do “up front gimmicks” to hold the line
2 and then they are hurting the school system or municipality later on because of
3 the 2% cap? **Mr. Welding** answered by saying that if the school system and the
4 municipality have the 2% cap on the levy, the expenses keep on rising and they
5 can’t get in with the 2% cap, they use “one-time revenues” but those are just one-
6 time revenues. Eventually the one-time revenues are gone and you have used
7 up all of your surplus, then you really have to cut your budget.
8

9 **2. PUBLIC – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

10
11 This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board
12 may do so. Please state your name, address and phone number. The Board
13 will hear your concerns. The Board may or may not take action this evening.
14 You will be notified either at this meeting by letter or telephone of any action the
15 Board does take.
16

17 **Patty New**, teacher at Broad Street School and Co-President of the GTEA,
18 spoke to the Board about possible out-sourcing of secretarial, custodial and para-
19 professional positions in the Greenwich Township School District. The matter
20 came to her attention at a January 27, 2012 meeting with administrators in which
21 a list of possible items to be cut in the proposed 2012-2013 school year was
22 given to them. The first positions to be out-sourced were our para-professionals
23 and custodians and then we were told that our secretaries were also not safe and
24 in jeopardy of being out-sourced. Other items included making Art, Music and
25 Physical Education, as well as Basic Skills, part-time positions and to reduce
26 Kindergarten from a Full-Day program to a Half-Day program with the parents
27 paying for the second half. We feel this would have a negative impact on our
28 school community and the quality of education in our schools. We are here
29 tonight to convince the administration and the Greenwich Township Board of
30 Education that this option must be dropped from consideration. **Mrs. New** went
31 on to say that out-sourcing jobs creates many problems for schools including
32 reduced efficiency, flexibility and accountability as well as increased turn-over
33 rates and health and safety concerns. Everyone understands that budgets are
34 tight and school districts must be efficient in spending the limited funds available
35 to them; however she said the “core mission” of this school district is to
36 provide the best possible education to our students with those limited funds.
37 There would be a serious setback if we were to out-source those positions. **Mrs.**
38 **New** then stated that these positions combined are filled by 20 caring and
39 dedicated Greenwich Township School employees and community members and
40 among them, they have decades of professional experience in the district as well
41 as thousands of hours of “professional development training”. In addition, **Mrs.**
42 **New** said they have developed strong relationships with teaching staff and
43 administration as well as the students and their families. Their experience and
44 training along with the benefits of these “long-established relationships” would all
45 vanish if this board were to approve a plan to privatize these positions. Our

1 school safety, cleanliness and educational mission would all be compromised by
2 a decision to fire these employees and contract with an outside hiring firm whose
3 core mission is to make a profit. Many of the people who hold these positions
4 are residents and taxpayers of Gibbstown. They all have a vested interest in this
5 community and have served it admirably for years. We feel that if we lose them,
6 our students and community will also lose. **Mrs. New** closed by saying that we
7 are going to do all that is necessary to convince the Board and the community
8 that out-sourcing is not an acceptable solution to our budgetary problems. She
9 hopes that by the end of this evening, we will have a commitment from this Board
10 that out-sourcing of these vital services will not be considered as next year's
11 budget is being developed.

12
13 **Terry DiSanto**, Child Study Team Psychologist and Co-President of the GTEA,
14 wanted to add to what Mrs. New said about how important our district employees
15 are to the success of our school. In these economic times, it is said that our
16 school needs to be run more like a business. However, in our Gibbstown
17 community we know that our schools are not businesses. **Mrs. DiSanto** then
18 said to Mr. Tarantino that he consistently re-enforces the idea that we are “a
19 family” and our staff embraces that concept. Our custodians, secretaries and
20 classroom aides are an integral part of this Gibbstown community and in difficult
21 times “a family does not weaken itself by casting out some of those members; a
22 strong family pulls together and utilizes the talents, energies and skills of all of its
23 members to survive and grow stronger”. Our educational support personnel
24 have a lot to offer as we work together to meet the challenges ahead. They
25 make a difference every day in our schools to enhance the quality education of
26 our students. Our secretaries’ efforts have been recognized by the
27 administration for promoting a family environment. She asked if a contracted
28 worker who gets their paycheck from an outside firm are going to promote
29 “family” the way these individuals have? The custodians and maintenance
30 workers have been recognized by the Board of Education for outstanding service
31 to the district, most of who live in the district and participate in outside community
32 activities that no contracted firm would do. **Mrs. DiSanto** went on to say that
33 many of our classroom aides live in Gibbstown or neighboring districts. They
34 interact daily with the students and develop strong personal relationships with
35 them and their families. She said they played a major part in helping Gibbstown
36 develop special education programs that have been recognized by other school
37 districts and attracting tuition to our school. She doesn't understand how people
38 who work for an outside contractor could be as committed to our students as
39 these para-professionals. She is hoping these comments will serve as a
40 reminder to the Board of Education and the administration that we are a
41 “committed family” in the Greenwich Township School District. The proposal to
42 out-source these positions will undermine our values and weaken our
43 community.
44

1 **Ann Piccioni**, instructional classroom aide at Broad Street School, introduced
2 her colleagues by name and gave their years of service to the district totaling
3 more than 60 years.
4

5 **Ellen Delaney**, custodian/maintenance staff, introduced her colleagues by name
6 and also gave their years of service to the district totaling more than 70 years.
7

8 **Jennifer Ellick**, principal's secretary at Nehaunsey Middle School, introduced
9 her colleagues by name. She too, gave their years of service to the district
10 totaling 39 years in which they have invested in the students, their families and
11 the school district of this community.
12

13 **Mike Williams**, Marshall Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to know if it is true what he
14 is hearing about what the board is considering? **Vincent Tarantino** responded
15 by saying that some of it is true but he wanted to go into more detail. When this
16 township was presented with a decrease in ratables between \$80-\$86 million
17 which would amount to approximately a \$.30 tax rate increase, he needed to be
18 proactive, so he sat down and came up with a list of possibilities. **Mr. Tarantino**
19 said he met with the teachers association and explained to them that those were
20 some of the things that he was considering and they, in turn, gave Mr. Tarantino
21 a list of things to consider. **Mr. Tarantino** went on to say that when he
22 mentioned Kindergarten, Art, Music and Physical Education, he suggested to the
23 association that these are things that other districts have taken into consideration
24 and have cut. He said he does not want to cut the Physical Education, Art or
25 Music program but what other districts are doing is hiring two people; one for the
26 morning and one for the afternoon and eliminating the costs for benefits. As far
27 as Kindergarten, **Mr. Tarantino** said other districts are eliminating the full-day
28 sessions and going to half-day sessions and having a "tuition based" second half
29 of the day if parents wish to keep their children in for a full day, which at this
30 point, we are not considering. He said if you read in today's Gloucester County
31 Times, he gave a list of random things that could save this district money and
32 out-sourcing maintenance and para-professionals was one of them. **Mr.**
33 **Tarantino** said he and the administrators met with the teachers association and
34 told them that nothing is finalized yet but will sit down and meet with them
35 again and let them know what they are considering. He would like them to
36 look at their contract, look at some of the programs and some other things that
37 they may be able to help the township with. This is not the Board or the
38 Superintendent against the teachers or para-professionals; we are all working
39 together and we have to consider everyone in this township. This board has only
40 met in committee and nothing has been decided.
41

42 **Joe DeLiberis**, 468 Allen Avenue, Gibbstown, said he didn't hear about anyone
43 taking a pay cut or Mr. Tarantino's salary. **Mr. Tarantino** said when the Board of
44 Education hired him last year, there was a recommendation from the County
45 Superintendent to eliminate salaries so he was hired as the Principal of the

1 *Broad Street School and the Superintendent of the district. He said he does not*
2 *get any benefits and that his salary last year was based on ten months but his*
3 *present salary represents 12 months. Mr. DeLiberis asked what the net savings*
4 *was? Mr. Tarantino said that a building principal makes anywhere from*
5 *\$85,000.00 to \$90,000.00 and that his salary is capped at \$135,000.00; that is for*
6 *two positions. He went on to say that the board is saving a tremendous amount*
7 *of money because he is doing two jobs.*

8
9 *Irene Sims, Chester Avenue, Gibbstown, said that her son has had many*
10 *problems over the years but this year with his aide, he has had no problems.*
11 *She also watched the actions of the Board while the first five ladies got up to*
12 *speak and they looked like they were bored and she finds that "very rude".*

13
14 *Diana Taormina, 740 Duncan Avenue, Gibbstown, said that she hopes what Mr.*
15 *Tarantino said about wanting the best for our kids is true. But she wanted to*
16 *know why in this time of "variable deficit" would the Board strive for a 0% tax*
17 *increase; why are our children footing the bill? The school board members were*
18 *voted on to protect our education; not to control taxes and many of us believe*
19 *you are only on the Board to control taxes and that is not why we voted you on to*
20 *the school board. Mr. Tarantino replied that the board has not yet established a*
21 *0% tax increase. We have not received any information from the state on*
22 *whether the state aid is increased or decreased to our district and we will not*
23 *know until at least February 22. The Board is working together in the best*
24 *interest of your children. Jason Murschell said we are in the preliminary stages*
25 *of creating a budget in very difficult times. The Budget & Finance Committee will*
26 *be looking at every option to see whether it is a good option or a not so good*
27 *option. Mr. Murschell went on to say that no decision has been made. Mrs.*
28 *Taormina said that her question is still not being answered so she asked again if*
29 *the Board was striving for a 0% tax increase and if that is the case then there will*
30 *be more cuts? Mr. Murschell said the bottom line is "we have to look and start*
31 *at zero". We have to look and see what we need. If it is going to impact a*
32 *program severely, then we won't be able to have a 0% tax increase. He was*
33 *asked when the public hearing was and responded that it is on March 29, 2012.*

34
35 *Irene Sims, Chester Avenue, Gibbstown, asked if the Board is going to move the*
36 *election to November in order to save \$5,600.00? Lisa Morina said it has not*
37 *been discussed as a board and it is not on tonight's agenda. The deadline is*
38 *February 17 and Mrs. Morina said it was on her list of comments for tonight as to*
39 *why we aren't discussing it. Mr. Murschell said as of right now, we haven't had*
40 *a discussion to move it to November. Ms. Sims asked, "isn't it correct in saying*
41 *it would save the district \$5,600.00"? Mr. Murschell said, "no, we are still*
42 *responsible for shared costs of the election". Ms. Sims commented that the*
43 *Board is "lining their pockets" and why don't they just not accept their pay for the*
44 *kids. She was told that the board "does not get paid". She asked who was*

1 getting the “mad raises” and why would they accept those large raises and try to
2 cut someone else’s job?
3

4 **Ann Piccioni**, 472 Center Street, Sewell, said that she has worked for
5 Greenwich Township Schools for six years and has extensive training in Applied
6 Behavior Analysis, Discrete Trial Teaching and Crisis Intervention. She has had
7 the pleasure of working in a multiply disabled classroom with children in the
8 autism spectrum. **Ms. Piccioni** went on to say that during her employment, she
9 has enjoyed teaching children with special needs. This school has made a
10 difference for these special-needs children and now you want to out-source the
11 very individuals who are making a difference in the lives of these children and
12 their families. Our school has chosen to be an advocate for children on the
13 autism spectrum. Other school districts have sent their students here and pay
14 tuition for these services. As aides, we have made a strong commitment to the
15 students in this district and several of us have worked with the same students for
16 six years and would do anything for them. **Ms. Piccioni** then asked the board if
17 an out-sourced aide will provide the same quality, service and personal
18 commitment to these children? **Mr. Murschell** said he can’t answer that at this
19 time.
20

21 **Carol Lang**, North School Street, Gibbstown, said that in 1998, Cherry Hill
22 School District out-sourced their 79 maintenance department employees. Within
23 two years, the first company was fired because they did not perform background
24 checks on workers and their work was unsatisfactory. By 2004, the second
25 company was also fired after a ten year-old girl was raped by one of its
26 employees. She asked the board how they are going to ensure the safety of our
27 children while you are letting potential strangers walk free around our school?
28 **Jason Murschell** responded by saying that the companies that they have had
29 presentations with do run background checks. **Ms. Lang** asked if that is going to
30 ensure the safety for our children? **Mr. Murschell** said it is no different than
31 when we hire a new employee to the district. **Ms. Lang** said that is only one
32 person; the maintenance department will have five or six people walking around
33 at any given time during the day. **Ms. Lang** then asked if anyone on the board or
34 administration is related, associated with or expected to gain anything by hiring
35 outside companies for the support staff, the maintenance staff and the teacher’s
36 aides? **Mr. Murschell** spoke only for himself and said he is not. **Roseanne**
37 **Lombardo** answered no as did the rest of the board. She asked **Mr. Tarantino**
38 again if he was associated with any group to which **Mr. Tarantino** said no.
39

40 **Brian Nastase**, Vine Street, Gibbstown said he did not come here tonight to
41 “bash the board”. He understands it is a volunteer position and it is a difficult
42 position in which tough decisions have to be made. **Mr. Nastase** went on to say
43 that he doesn’t think there is one concerned parent in this room tonight that
44 wouldn’t substitute a tax increase so as not to lose their children’s education.
45 He said when he was in school, there used to be a band and **Dr. Lotstein** was a

1 big influence in his life and he feels the same about Mrs. Laura Enuco, the Music
2 teacher. **Mr. Nastase's** daughter was involved in the music program and he
3 went to all her shows that she performed in. It gives these children something to
4 look back on and maybe they will continue in these arts in high school. As far
5 as physical education class, he said in this day and age, children do not get the
6 physical activity outside that we used to get. We didn't have X-box or Nintendo
7 when we were young and kids today need to have physical fitness. He feels Mr.
8 Steve Wehrle, the Physical Education teacher, does a fabulous job as he
9 supports all those kids in whatever they do. All the teachers in this district go
10 above and beyond the scope of their work. **Mr. Nastase** said he wants to see all
11 the kids succeed like he did. He pleaded with the board to not let these
12 programs go even if it means raising his taxes.

13
14 **Sherry Rambo**, Vine Street, Gibbstown, asked if the board was considering
15 cutting computer classes? **Mr. Tarantino** said the "specials" are not going to be
16 cut but technology is on the list of things to be looked at. He also said everything
17 is being looked at from the two-hour aide position all the way up to the
18 Superintendent position. Physical Education is mandated and we will not be
19 eliminating that. We have a great Art and Music Program with fantastic teachers;
20 they will not be going away. We are looking at technology and many of the
21 teachers at the elementary school have technology built into their curriculum;
22 there are a lot of elementary schools that are doing this. The technology teacher
23 will not be let go; they will be part of the educational program somewhere else.
24 **Ms. Rambo** said if you are considering cutting technology, how are our kids
25 supposed to remain "academically competitive"? Can you get a job anywhere if
26 you don't know how to use a computer? **Mr. Tarantino** said they are not
27 eliminating technology in the elementary school. It is the way technology will be
28 delivered to the children. **Ms. Rambo** asked if they will still have a computer
29 class to which **Mr. Tarantino** answered, "yes".

30
31 **Andrew Chapkowski**, 85 Adalisa Avenue, Gibbstown said he has a different
32 issue and it is about cost savings and what the board is not doing to promote
33 cost savings. He said he didn't care if it was \$500.00 or \$1,500.00, by not
34 moving the election to November is a "cop-out" and for it to not even be on the
35 agenda for tonight is a "sin". **Mr. Chapkowski** went on to say that between 2008
36 to 2011, we had an average voter turnout of 28.6% for the school board election
37 and a 63% voter turnout for the November election. He thinks if you put
38 something on the November general election, whether it is to increase our
39 budget or for a bond issue, it makes sense to do that and he hopes that the
40 board can work it out tonight even though it was not on the agenda or you can
41 tell everyone that we aren't going to move it to November and that we are
42 basically going with the minority that comes out for the election to make all the
43 decisions and to possibly eliminate tons of teachers.

1 **Kim Devers**, 177 Harmony Road, Gibbstown, wanted to know if there is a
2 discussion about the after-school clubs being eliminated and has the
3 administration told the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) not to hand out
4 applications for current students? **Mr. Tarantino** said it is on our list and also
5 one of the recommendations that the teacher's association as well has
6 recommended be cut. **Mrs. Devers** would like the board to tell her how she is
7 supposed to go home and tell her 7th grader, who is weeks away from being
8 recognized for all her hard work the last three years as a straight A student, a
9 volunteer in the community and plays sports, that now when she would reap the
10 rewards and possibly be nominated into the NJHS, something that will follow her
11 through her educational career that they are not going to have that any longer.
12 She wants to know how is she supposed to tell her child? **Mr. Tarantino** said
13 that the NJHS was not going to be cut. He went on to say that in his initial
14 meeting with the teacher's association, and he doesn't want it "dumped on them",
15 the recommendation was to eliminate all clubs but he doesn't believe they meant
16 the NJHS. He said there will be certain clubs and activities that we will still
17 continue to have for our kids because we need to recognize those children who
18 exceed academically just as we do with the "Super Student Program" and the
19 "Honor Roll Program". **Mrs. Devers** then asked Mr. Tarantino if it were true that
20 the administration told the advisors to hold the applications for the NJHS? **Mr.**
21 **Tarantino** replied, "absolutely not". She asked if the applications will then go out
22 and **Mr. Tarantino** said that as far as he is concerned, applications will go out.
23 **Mrs. Devers** then asked if the Board is here to be advocates for our children or
24 for the senior community? **Jason Murschell** said the board is responsible for
25 the whole community; the children as well as the taxpayers. **Mrs. Devers** said
26 that when Mr. Tarantino spoke earlier, he said the board needed to keep the tax
27 rate down so as not to burden our older community and she has been to several
28 board meetings where that has been the primary discussion. When the building
29 project was being discussed, you continuously bring up the senior community
30 and the burden on them. What about the most vulnerable residents of our
31 community-our children? **Mr. Tarantino** said he was hired here for the kids. As
32 far as the senior citizens, the public sitting here and the kids, the board
33 represents everyone. When he found out about the ratables, he said we have to
34 be proactive and look for ways to save money and that is what he is doing. **Lisa**
35 **Morina** wanted to answer Mrs. Devers' earlier question by saying that she was
36 not elected by any special interest group and she was definitely not elected by
37 the senior citizens in this town but as a mother of a child who came through this
38 district, she is definitely for the children. She came in here tonight and personally
39 thanked Mr. Bill Porreca because her son told her that what he learned from Mr.
40 Porreca, he is using in his high school classes. **Mrs. Morina** went on to say that
41 she was not elected by anyone and she doesn't think anyone has a doubt about
42 that, but if you did, she said she was elected for this school district for the
43 children and she is not for some of these proposals. **Roseanne Lombardo**
44 reiterated what Mrs. Morina had said and stated that she is a school teacher and
45 she is on this board for the kids. She is not for eliminating these programs and

1 would like to see more creative ways to make it work. **Susan Vernacchio** said
2 she too was not elected by the senior citizen group in town. In fact, she said at
3 times they have spoken negatively about her. She runs the SACC program here
4 in Gibbstown and some people have made up lies about how she is receiving a
5 kick-back. That is one of the reasons why she is not seeking re-election. She is
6 not going to have her program dragged through the mud with lies. **Mrs.**
7 **Vernacchio** went on to say that as an example, someone came to Mrs. Morina
8 at her office with a derogatory letter. "If someone's going to come to my office
9 with a derogatory letter, they are going to come and see the kids. I'm certainly
10 not letting that happen. There's no way!" She ended by saying that she is for the
11 kids. **Jason Murschell** said that he has two children currently in this school and
12 if anyone thinks that he would make program changes that would affect his own
13 children's education or risk their safety, "I think you're nuts". He then said
14 anyone can say what they want; he is for the kids but he has a responsibility to
15 everyone. **Louis Fabiani** said that on December 23, Santa Claus came to visit
16 the Broad Street School. **Mr. Fabiani** was recruited and volunteered to be the elf
17 on the stage greeting the children. "You should have seen me in those green
18 leotards and green uniform. So I'm here for the children too."

19
20 **Martin Ware**, Locke Avenue, Gibbstown, said he works in a K-8 district just like
21 ours and they have been in similar situations with having to make cuts. One of
22 the ideas was to move the election to November. You have a 2% cap and if you
23 stay under that, it doesn't have to be voted on and the school gets their money.
24 So why we would not move the election to November is "beyond me". **Mr. Ware**
25 then brought up the idea of "school choice". He said if you bring students to this
26 district, you can bring in \$6,000.00-\$7,000.00 per student. Any of our kids can
27 leave this district and go to a school choice district and he believes that will
28 happen if these massive cuts happen. He said his school district is a school
29 choice and if these cuts do happen, he is bringing his children to the district
30 where he works. He doesn't want to do that because all their friends are here
31 and they have been here for a long time but if the board is going to "decimate"
32 what they have, "they are gone and that's a promise". **Mr. Ware** then asked **Mr.**
33 **Tarantino** if there are other people in the district that are certified with either a
34 supervisor's certificates or master degrees of education or educational
35 supervision? **Mr. Tarantino** answered, "yes". **Mr. Ware** then asked **Mr. Scott**
36 **Campbell** if we could hire a "per diem" Superintendent once **Mr. Tarantino's**
37 tenure is up in July? **Mr. Tarantino** said that the state of New Jersey allows an
38 interim Superintendent to work directly for a school district for up to two years.
39 He then said if the Board decides to go through another LEA, (local educational
40 authority), such as E.I.R.C., he could be hired again. **Mr. Ware** asked why we
41 would we put out another \$135,000.00 when we are trying to make cuts? We
42 could bring **Mr. Tarantino** back at a "per diem" rate since he is already retired and
43 in the pensions and benefits system. **Mr. Ware** went on to say that **Mr. Tarantino**
44 mentioned taking the specials out of their positions and hiring a "2 for 1" so you
45 don't have to pay benefits. **Mr. Tarantino** replied that he never said that.

1 **Mr. Ware** told him it was one of his options but **Mr. Tarantino** said he spoke with
2 other Superintendents and that is what other districts are doing so it was
3 mentioned to the teacher's association. **Mr. Ware** asked why we can't make all
4 the positions "2 for 1"? **Mr. Tarantino** asked what **Mr. Ware** teaches to which
5 **Mr. Ware** responded, "physical education" and that he teaches seven different
6 classes a day. **Mr. Tarantino** said if we hired another physical education
7 teacher, we could have one teacher in the morning and one in the afternoon
8 because you are not dealing with the same class all day. "I can't do that to a
9 teacher". **Mr. Ware** said, "oh, so I'm not a teacher?" **Mr. Tarantino** said he
10 cannot hire two teachers to teach an elementary class because one teacher has
11 the same kids all day. **Mr. Ware** said that isn't the case in the Middle School
12 because they change classes. At that time, **Mr. Tarantino** told **Mr. Ware** that he
13 can talk to him about this outside of the meeting if he wanted to discuss it further.
14 **Mr. Ware** said he wants to discuss it now and **Mr. Tarantino** said he didn't want
15 to get into a "petty argument" and for him to "move on".
16

17 **Jill Trainor**, 260 Ashton Drive, Gibbstown said she doesn't have children in
18 school yet but one will be here next year and one the following year. She works
19 in a K-8 district and she is an administrator who does three jobs for the district
20 and makes \$72,000.00 for ten months. **Mr. Tarantino** asked her how much her
21 benefits are to which **Mrs. Trainor** replied, "I don't get benefits through the
22 district." She said the board has talked a lot about what we need to cut but she
23 hasn't heard anyone talk about how to bring revenue into the district. She asked
24 how much revenue the special education program was bringing into the district
25 and was told it was \$29,000.00 per child. **Mrs. Trainor** then asked if the board
26 knew how much it costs to send a child out-of-district? With her also being a
27 Child Study Team coordinator, she said it can cost almost \$100,000.00. We
28 have brought three kids into this district in the last three months totaling
29 \$75,000.00. We need to think about programs like this to bring revenue into the
30 school because, along with **Martin Ware**, she too can bring her children with her
31 to her school.
32

33 **Jackie DeLiberis**, 468 Allen Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to add to what **Mrs.**
34 **Trainor** said because she has implemented a Special Education program along
35 with **Terry DiSanto** and **Lorie Muraca** when her children were coming into this
36 district. She said that we have the "best of the best" teachers here and the
37 program works because of **Rob Harris** and his selection of teachers. No one
38 knows what these teachers endure but they are good at what they do. She also
39 said her boys love their teachers, **Jen Spera** and **Christine Eisermann**. At one
40 point, **Mrs. DeLiberis** said her one child was "non-verbal"; now he doesn't shut
41 up. These teachers make a difference; it would not work with out-sourcing so
42 she is pleading with the board to not cut these aides. The district can expand on
43 this program and make money.
44

1 **Beth Godfrey**, 219 Bennett Street, Gibbstown said she is a Child Study Team
2 director in a neighboring town and she does send a student here to Greenwich
3 Township. If you out-source your aides with an outside contractor, the aides they
4 bring in can make or break your program and there would be a strong possibility
5 that those children will go out-of-district. **Mrs. Godfrey** wanted the board to
6 know that to send one child to Bankbridge, it costs \$38,850.00. If that child had a
7 one-on-one aide in this district, the possibility of that child needing an aide out-of-
8 district is high and the cost for that is \$41,400.00. That doesn't include
9 transportation or an extended school year program which could be another
10 \$6,500.00. She knows the board is in the fact finding stages and they should
11 know their figures. The possibility of sending your students out-of-district
12 because your aides aren't as trained as these aides is very high. **Mrs. Godfrey**
13 then said there is an opening for a long-term substitute position in special
14 education at the Broad Street School and she asked if it is posted and where is it
15 posted? **Mr. Tarantino** replied that it should be posted and also when you are
16 dealing with Source 4 Teachers, they will supply substitute teachers and/or long-
17 term substitutes and also that Mr. Rob Harris is interviewing four candidates this
18 week. **Mrs. Godfrey** said she has the same position opening up in her district
19 and she has 47 applicants. Why does Greenwich Township only have four
20 candidates and she has 47? **Mr. Tarantino** said the reason the Board went with
21 Source 4 Teachers is to save the taxpayers money. If we hire a substitute
22 teacher and they work for more than 60 days, we would have to put that person
23 on salary and pay them benefits. By going with Source 4 Teachers, you are
24 getting a trained, certificated teacher to be paid a rate of \$75.00 per day. **Mrs.**
25 **Godfrey** then said it is about money savings but it is also about quality teachers.
26 She asked Mr. Tarantino if the district was getting a qualified teacher for those
27 special education children who are in a huge transition—are you getting quality?
28 **Mr. Tarantino** replied, “yes”. **Mrs. Godfrey** feels four applicants versus 47 is a
29 big difference.
30

31 **Carina Bradley**, Memorial Avenue, Gibbstown said she has a six-year old child
32 and if the board is going to out-source people, that gives her concerns because
33 of the safety of the children. She moved here because of the reputation of the
34 school and she wanted to put her child through this school. But during the first
35 week of school, her child came home and told her the bus driver screams, hits a
36 curb and talks on their cell phone and they are the out-sourced bus drivers that
37 were brought in. What kind of back ground checks did these bus drivers have?
38 They have her child on that vehicle and he could have been hurt because of their
39 negligence. **Mr. Murschell** said he has kids in this school district and if he
40 thought they would not be safe on the bus, he would not have been for out-
41 sourcing. **Ms. Bradley** then said the complaints went to Mr. Tarantino and we
42 were told the police were involved. She asked how he, Mr. Murschell, didn't
43 know that when everyone else knew it? **Mr. Tarantino** said one bus driver was
44 removed but he didn't know if it was the bus driver on her sons' bus. **Ms.**
45 **Bradley** said he still has the same bus driver. **Mr. Tarantino** then said when the

1 district contracted with the bus company, the drivers went through training and a
2 background check but as with any profession, you will find some people that do
3 not do their jobs the way they are supposed to.
4

5 **Bonnie Jeffers**, 89 Troy Avenue, Gibbstown said these are trying economic
6 times for everyone and no decision is going to be easy. She thinks the best
7 possible outcome is that the board members get the support of the community.

8 **Ms. Jeffers** asked if the board plans on being transparent with all their “due-
9 diligence” to the different options and how and where can we access that
10 information before the meeting? She would like to know so that she can do her
11 own assessment of the options available. **Mr. Tarantino** said Mrs. Vernacchio
12 heads the Budget & Finance Committee and we are in the beginning stages of
13 the budget right now. **Ms. Jeffers** is asking if the information that will be
14 distributed to the board is also going to be made available to the public? **Mr.**
15 **Murschell** said once the budget is prepared and it goes before the public for
16 review, changes can be made. The public will have input if there are items the
17 public feels should or should not be on there. There is an opportunity to review it
18 before it goes to vote. **Susan Vernacchio** said she is the chairperson of the
19 Budget & Finance Committee and Alan Boultinghouse and Jim Worrell are also
20 on the committee.
21

22 **Carina Jovanovic**, former Greenwich Township teacher, said she is a perfect
23 example of a program that was cut for your children; Spanish. She wanted to
24 know how the board justified cutting that program when it is so important for
25 children to have foreign language? It can make a difference on whether or not
26 you get a job. From what she understands, during that same year of cutting
27 Spanish, there were pay raises for the Superintendent and a brand-new phone
28 system that cost \$84,000.00. She urged the parents to stay on top of this and
29 not be fooled because they will wait until the last possible minute and then “pull
30 the rug”. “Be warned”.
31

32 **Joseph Marcucci**, 409 Jefferson Street, Gibbstown, told the board that when
33 you start to make your decisions on the budget, remember one thing and that is
34 the future of any town is its children; not the senior citizens, the children. He also
35 doesn’t understand why there was no anticipation of this large crowd being here
36 tonight? This is a total disgrace and he feels it was done purposely. **Mr.**
37 **Marcucci** said he stood in the back of the room and couldn’t hear three-quarters
38 of this meeting. He concluded by saying to Mr. Tarantino that there was a
39 Superintendent in this district that was also a Principal and made a lot less than
40 what you are making.
41

42 **Gabby Bing**, graduate of the Greenwich Township School District, wants to
43 acknowledge the benefits from being in all the extra-curricular activities here at
44 Nehaunsey. It carried on into high school where she is a freshmen and taking
45 college courses and participates in after-school activities. She believes the clubs

1 that this school offers allows students to become well-rounded and successful.
2 She fears her younger brother will not be enjoying these benefits and she wants
3 to know how you compensate for not having these clubs? **Mr. Tarantino** said he
4 is very proud of the students he has here as they are well-rounded. Any club that
5 we cut has a direct effect on all of us but difficult decisions have to be made. He
6 said it isn't about him or his salary; it is about the kids and collectively we will
7 work together to come up with a budget that will be in support of our children.
8

9 **Jessica Peel**, Valedictorian of Nehaunsey Middle School Class of 2008. **Ms.**
10 **Peel** said she was involved in Art club and art classes here at Nehaunsey and
11 also participated in Student Council. She is currently the executive secretary of
12 student council at Padua Academy and recently received a National Merit Award
13 for her art piece. She is curious as to what is being eliminated because all she is
14 hearing is that "this isn't going to be cut" or "this is an option". What is on the
15 chopping block? **Mr. Tarantino** replied that he is preparing a list of things to
16 present to the board and clubs are on the list. **Ms. Peel** said that knowing how
17 these clubs affected who she is as an individual and knowing how they helped
18 her to succeed, are you willing to risk that for the upcoming students? **Mr.**
19 **Tarantino** responded by saying it was difficult question to answer at this time.
20 We need to see what our bottom line is.
21

22 **Mary Oliveri**, Allen Avenue, Gibbstown said that she is a parent of a child that
23 has already come through this school and another who is in school now and she
24 was in one of the programs that was already cut; the homework program. She
25 wants to know how that is going to affect her going through school now? She no
26 longer has access to the homework program and relies on the graciousness of
27 the teachers who volunteer to help her.
28

29 **Lori Bass-Riley**, 612 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown said she can't help but
30 hear the anger that is in this room and the anger she has heard since she came
31 to this town in 2005. There are a lot of "trust issues" that we citizens have with
32 this board. If you want people to work with you, then you have to make things
33 apparent to them and not just at the meeting. Give us things beforehand. In
34 East Greenwich, before they have a council meeting, things go out to the
35 residents who have signed up on the e-mail list. Why doesn't that happen here?
36 She is a pastor and has three parishioners that told her they heard at the senior
37 citizen meeting that it was "absolute" that Broad Street would be the only school,
38 the finances were in order and there was someone already in line to buy this
39 building. Three different people have heard this but then she heard that
40 someone said we can't even talk about selling this building until we have the
41 agreement of everyone to move to Broad Street and already have that underway.
42 **Mrs. Bass-Riley** said the other item she hears often is that it is a 3-4 split and
43 there is nothing we can do because the "men" meet with Mr. Tarantino and make
44 decisions behind closed doors. She wants to know what the board can do to
45 make the people trust you again? Can you say that that has absolutely never

1 happened? Can you say that you never met with the Board members to talk
2 about decisions and if you are Christian, you will say that it never happened?
3 **Susan Vernacchio** said she is in and out of that building every day and Mr.
4 **Tarantino** does talk to her but no decisions are ever made. **Mr. Tarantino** said
5 that every week he provides an update to the board members as far as
6 everything that goes on in the district. There are times when I do meet with one
7 or two board members to discuss issues. He calls the president and they set the
8 agenda together. **Mr. Murschell** said he speaks with Mr. Tarantino once a week
9 on the phone. He has been on the board going on two years and he has met
10 with him in the school in person maybe less than a half-dozen times. The only
11 time he was in an office was after a board meeting and he, Mrs. Morina and Mr.
12 **Fabiani** met with Mr. Tarantino to discuss one thing as a committee. Another
13 time he went into Mr. Tarantino's office and Mr. Worrell was in there and again
14 on December 23, he saw Mr. Fabiani there. **Mrs. Bass-Riley** asked if the board
15 can show us, the parents, the options of what this budget will look like? **Mrs.**
16 **Vernacchio** said she is trying to propose a meeting for February 23 for the board
17 to meet to go over some of the preliminary things that we have. Hopefully we will
18 have some state aid numbers to work with.

19
20 **Jen Haines**, Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown said in getting back to the "trust"
21 issue, Mrs. Haines said that Mr. Worrell and Mr. Fabiani have been quite vocal
22 on the fact that they have the majority vote and they will have their say
23 regardless of what everyone else has to say and she wants to know who they are
24 directing that too; the taxpayers or the three ladies on this board who are for the
25 children of our school? **Mr. Fabiani** denied he said that but **Mrs. Haines** said
26 she heard him say it in the local supermarket. **Mr. Fabiani** then said if anyone
27 looks at the minutes where things have been voted on, 95% of the votes were
28 unanimous, 7-0. There is an issue with the school and with that motion, it was a
29 4-3 vote in favor of Broad Street School.

30
31 **Brian Bass-Riley**, 612 Betty Rose Avenue, Gibbstown said he knows no definite
32 decisions have been made but can he at least be told what clubs and activities
33 are on the "table" to be eliminated and what aren't? **Mr. Tarantino** replied that
34 when he said all clubs are being looked at and may be eliminated, he meant "all
35 clubs" including the National Junior Honor Society, (NJHS). We will be looking at
36 all clubs based on the merit and the number of students it serves and this is a
37 decision that the board has to make. **Mr. Murschell** said he sat in at the last
38 Budget & Finance Committee meeting when Mrs. Vernacchio stated she didn't
39 want to do anything that was going to negatively affect the children. **Mr. Bass-**
40 **Riley** appreciates that someone is looking out for the children but said any cuts,
41 whether small or large, will negatively affect our kids. He had two children in the
42 district and one has special needs but he knows that when she comes here to
43 school, everyone looks out for her and loves her and he is terrified that with "out-
44 sourced" people, his child will not have the same treatment. He also said his kids
45 "thrive" on the extra-curricular activities and depending on what happens, he and

1 his wife may consider school choice. He asked the board to please increase the
2 revenue and not sacrifice our kids' education; it is too important.
3

4 **Gina Lombardo**, 8th grade student at Nehaunsey Middle School, said "with all
5 due respect Mr. Tarantino, but every time someone asks a question, you never
6 directly answer the question." She said when she walks in the principal's office,
7 Mrs. Ellick always has a smile on her face and does everything she can for the
8 students. How do you expect to get that with a temporary office worker? **Miss**
9 **Lombardo** said there is a sign in Mrs. Ellick's office that reads, "if your plan is for
10 one year, plant rice; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; if your plan is for 100
11 years, educate children." She said if we have a 100 year plan, this is not going to
12 work. You have to put work into it; we are tearing apart and we have to stay
13 together and if we don't stay together, I don't know what is going to happen to
14 this school.....**Mr. Tarantino** said that he never mentioned out-sourcing
15 secretaries. **Miss Lombardo** said this is still not going to work if you don't keep
16 the extra-curricular activities; they are what keep this school going.
17

18 **Claudia Pinizzotto**, 8th grade student at Nehaunsey Middle School said that kids
19 don't really like school but the amazing teachers we have are what makes it fun
20 to come here.
21

22 **Cadie DiGiambattista**, 8th grade student at Nehaunsey Middle School, said in
23 the morning, we go into Mrs. Ellick's office and she will have a conversation with
24 us and tries to keep a nice relationship with all of us. She knows all of our faces
25 and when our parents come in to get us, she knows their faces also. If you out-
26 source the secretaries, who will we have to talk to when we go to the office?
27

28 **Miss Pinizzotto** also said to Mr. Tarantino that she does recall him saying and
29 she has heard many rumors that secretaries may be out-sourced. She also feels
30 that we as kids, need to know what your plans are for things to be cut.
31

32 **Willard Zane**, Adalisa Avenue, Gibbstown said as each day goes by, he wants to
33 leave this town more and more because he sees the town and the school going
34 down. The biggest thing about a town is its school; that's what drives most
35 people to move into a town. The more people that leave this town because they
36 don't like the school, the worse it will get for this school and it will be an
37 "avalanche" of what's going to happen. He went on to say that with a teacher like
38 Mr. Wehrle, you will not get that kind of effort with part-time teachers. The quality
39 of the staff that we have here and the security of a full-time job is what makes
40 them work harder at their job to make the school improve. "You have to plan for
41 100 years because the kids are where it's at". **Mr. Zane** ended by saying that we
42 voted for this board and we have to trust them to do what's best for our kids and
43 those of you that don't agree with them, you should run yourselves.
44

1 **Lee Lucas**, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, addressed Mr. Murschell by saying
2 that we have to forget privatization because he doesn't feel it saves money
3 anyway. You get low-paying workers with lousy benefits and some rich guy will
4 pocket the money. As far as out-sourcing the maintenance, you will get foreign
5 workers and he doesn't want to see an American losing his job during this
6 economic downturn to someone that can't speak English. **Mr. Lucas** then said
7 he wants the board to stand firm on keeping the election in April because he
8 wants to vote on the budget. **Mr. Fabiani** said when a school board votes to
9 move the election to November, it automatically takes away the right for the
10 people to vote on the budget.

11
12 **Mark Pandolfo**, 251 Marshall Avenue, Gibbstown said he is happy with the
13 turnout tonight but wishes the facility were larger to accommodate everyone
14 comfortably. He said he is addressing how the Broad Street versus Nehaunsey
15 issue was dealt with. He again stated that he is not for one school or the other;
16 he just wanted the right thing done. He said what really bothered him was that
17 the decision was passed that night on which school they wanted after a
18 wonderful presentation was given on two schools with numbers being flashed all
19 over that he didn't even understand until the following meeting but by that time,
20 the decision was already made without coming up with a consensus. His issue
21 tonight is that even with this wonderful meeting and all these people here, their
22 decision is already made. They did it before and they may do it again so just
23 watch them.

24
25 **Ann Piccioni**, asked Mr. Murschell if the board has had any presentations of any
26 companies for outsourcing of the aides, the maintenance and the secretaries?

27 **Mr. Murschell** said at the last Budget & Finance Committee meeting he
28 attended, there was a presentation by Mission One for the aides. He does not
29 know of any other presentations. **Mr. Tarantino** said the committee also had a
30 meeting about out-sourcing maintenance and custodial. We did not meet with
31 any individual company; we are looking at a consortium. **Ms. Piccioni** said that
32 Source 4 Teachers and Mission One are the same company. **Mr. Tarantino**
33 replied yes but Mission One handles the para-professionals. **Ms. Piccioni**
34 wanted to know why there seems to be no other company that we deal with
35 except Source 4 Teachers and why don't you have to go out for a bid? **Mr.**
36 **Tarantino** said it is a service and you don't have to go out for a bid. **Ms.**
37 **Piccioni** then asked if the board has sat down and looked at the program where
38 she and the other aides work and see how much revenue that program has
39 brought into the district in the past six years? She said if we continue to market
40 this, we can bring in more children and more revenue therefore saving our jobs.
41 **Mr. Tarantino** said they have certainly looked into that.

42
43 **Candell Maxie**, 114 Casperson Street, Gibbstown, said she had heard a rumor
44 that the board is considering cutting nine elementary school teachers. This will
45 have a direct effect on her child since she is a student at the Broad Street School

1 because it will increase class size from 28-30. **Mr. Tarantino** said one of the
2 recommendations on the table was to provide a different way to deliver basic
3 skills and this was in the discussion phase with the teacher's association.
4 Instead of hiring one basic skills teacher, they will hire two part-time teachers;
5 one for the morning and one for the afternoon and that will eliminate the need for
6 benefits. Other districts are doing it to avoid paying the benefits. **Mr. Tarantino**
7 again said the board has not discussed that yet. **Mrs. Maxie** said that as an
8 educator herself she wants the board to remember that we are here for the good
9 of these children. She is a first-grade teacher in a class of 21. She is one
10 person and it is very difficult to meet every child's needs with that amount of kids
11 so she is asking the board to please consider the class size and the children of
12 Gibbstown.

13
14 **Duane Sarmiento**, 142 Center Street, Gibbstown, asked Mr. Tarantino if ADP
15 was contacted for payroll services? **Mr. Tarantino** said they did meet with two
16 companies but ADP was not one of them. **Mr. Sarmiento** said he heard it costs
17 \$75.00 per day for a substitute with Source 4 Teachers. **Mr. Tarantino** said it
18 does cost \$75.00 per day plus administrative charges. **Scott Campbell** said it
19 costs \$101.79 per day through Source 4 Teachers but the substitute makes
20 \$75.00 and the remaining \$26.79 goes to Source 4 Teachers. **Mr. Sarmiento**
21 then asked Mr. Tarantino if he had a vested interest in Source 4 Teachers or
22 EIRC to which **Mr. Tarantino** replied, "no". He said prior to getting his job here,
23 he trained all the substitute teachers for Source 4 Teachers and his wife works
24 part-time at EIRC. He also said he has no current interest in EIRC, Source 4
25 Teachers or Mission One. **Mr. Sarmiento** said that there is a county-wide
26 property re-assessment going on and Gibbstown has not been re-assessed since
27 the early 1980's. Next June, teacher's contract expires and state law mandates
28 that there will be contributions to health care. He said it won't do us any good in
29 April but come 12 months from now, there is going to be increased revenue to
30 this town and into this school board. So to sit there and say you want to hold this
31 at a 0% bottom line, if it costs a little more to educate our kids, then so be it. **Mr.**
32 **Sarmiento** finished by saying that he hopes Mr. Pandolfo is wrong when he said
33 the decision about the cuts has already been made by the board. He hopes you
34 take into consideration what everyone has said tonight and work this out.

35
36 **Joseph Oliveri**, Allen Avenue, Gibbstown said there is no mention of the amount
37 of money the teachers are mandated by law to pay for their benefits. They aren't
38 paying the whole thing but they went from zero to five percent. So in health care
39 alone, you are saving 5% across the board because everyone has to pay that.
40 **Mrs. Vernacchio** asked Mr. Oliveri if he knew how much benefits are going up?
41 **Mr. Oliveri** said he does because he is also a state worker who pays for his
42 benefits and his pension. He feels if the teachers and aides and everyone else
43 pays for their benefits, that is more money for the district to maybe keep some of
44 these programs. He asked if that money is "earmarked" for anything? **Mr.**
45 **Murschell** said the amount the employees were required to pay to help offset the

1 cost of benefits and the increase we experienced were a “wash”. The employees
2 are required to pay 1.5%, not 5%. **Mrs. Vernacchio** said it really wasn’t a
3 “wash”. The district still lost out but **Mr. Murschell** said it goes back into the
4 benefits; it’s not like it goes into a pool to spend later.
5

6 **Anthony Walko**, Washington Street, Gibbstown said he is a former student and
7 “insanely” proud to say he is a product of the Greenwich Township School
8 District because it has made him who he is today. He told the board that as they
9 continue to delegate and process what you need to with the budget and for the
10 sake of his mom who does amazing work with the special education students
11 and everyone else that does their job here, he hopes they keep in mind the
12 school song; “Sing a song for Gibbstown! Keep its standard high! Cheer the
13 best school in the land—cheers that shall not die!”
14

15 **Jeanette Peel**, 525 Myrtle Avenue, Gibbstown said she is the mother of the 2008
16 Valedictorian and she wants to thank the board for taking into consideration the
17 rise in our property taxes but what it looks like this evening is that all the parents
18 of school-aged children won’t mind an increase in their taxes to save their school.
19 You get what you pay for and we are willing to pay for a good school system.
20 She brought documentation for the person who didn’t get his property tax
21 freeze—property tax freeze is still in effect for the seniors. Instead of the
22 individual getting a check, it is going directly to the township to offset their taxes
23 so they will not see the increase; we will and we welcome the increase as long as
24 you give us a proud school district because it is all we have to offer here in
25 Gibbstown. Please don’t fall short of that.
26

27 **Martin Ware** asked how much is a \$.01? **Mr. Murschell** replied, \$56,900.00.
28

29 **Jessica Peel** said this whole meeting is about realizing what we need for this
30 school, what we want for our students and to recognize the excellence of what
31 we want Nehaunsey and Broad Street to be. She then congratulated Mr. Steve
32 Wehrle and Mr. Andrew Mettler for Teacher of the Year. She feels this school is
33 great and we want to keep it great with teachers such as these two men and she
34 appreciates all the consideration the board is doing on their behalf.
35

36 **Sharon Gomez-Salvatore**, 6th grade teacher, said she lives in this district and
37 she works in this district. She grew up here and has coached children here in
38 town—Gibbstown is her home. She is very worried about the changes that are
39 coming. The only people that can make change better are the people within this
40 township. She went on to say that she is the advisor for SADD, (Students
41 Against Destructive Decisions). Last year, she had 56 students and one co-
42 advisor. This year, she has 26 students and no co-advisor. She couldn’t bring
43 on as many 5th and 6th grade students as she usually does because she cannot
44 do it alone. She truly feels SADD is an important club to our students as some
45 kids will be faced with peer pressure within their lifetime to try drugs or alcohol,

1 get into fights, become a victim of bullying, texting while driving or remain in a
2 disruptive relationship. These are only a small portion of what is discussed in
3 SADD. **Mrs. Salvatore** said her students learn empathy for those that have the
4 disease of addiction but more importantly, they learn how and why it is so
5 important to know not to start. If we can keep our students from practicing these
6 destructive decisions, then it is our community that will reap the benefits. She
7 also wanted to thank all the para-professionals that have been in her classroom
8 over the years for their help. Without them, it would make her job even more
9 difficult. When she asks the maintenance for something, they go above and
10 beyond to help her. **Mrs. Salvatore** said that as a township resident she would
11 like to see this board move the election to November so that 60% or more of the
12 voters will come out to vote and not sit back because it is not something that they
13 think about. She concluded by saying that we cannot do without our para-
14 professionals, our secretaries and our maintenance staff and also our clubs are
15 important to make our students well-rounded.

16
17 **Lee Lucas** said he wants to keep the election in April but he asked how much is
18 the cost for the election? **Scott Campbell** replied that it cost approximately
19 \$5,600.00.

21 **3. TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION**

22 23 A. Gloucester County Teacher Recognition

24
25 Presenters: **Mr. Vincent Tarantino**, Interim Superintendent/Principal,
26 Broad Street School

27
28 **Mrs. Alisa Whitcraft**, Principal, Nehaunsey Middle School

29
30 Acknowledgement was made to the recipients of the 2011-2012 Gloucester
31 County Teacher of the Year Recognition Program. Recipients this year were:

32
33 **Mr. Steve Wehrle – Broad Street School**

34 **Mr. Andrew Mettler – Nehaunsey Middle School**

35
36 A short break was taken from 9:28 p.m. to 9:37 p.m. for cake and refreshments.

37 38 **4. MINUTES**

39
40 Motion: (Fabiani/Lombardo) to approve the minutes:

41
42 January 5, 2012 – Special Meeting

43 January 9, 2012 – Regular Meeting

44 January 9, 2012 – Executive Session

1 *Lisa Morina* asked for a correction in the minutes for the January 5, 2012
2 meeting on page 2, line 43. What Mrs. Morina actually said was “**she isn’t the**
3 **only one**” on the board in the dark about not going out for referendum in
4 January and not getting any state money. The motion remained to reflect the
5 change in those minutes. They will be corrected and placed on the district
6 website.

7
8 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9
10 **5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

11
12 Motion: (Fabiani/Vernacchio) to approve the following as one, A1-A4:

13
14 A. Administrative Reports

- 15
16 1. Enrollment Statistics, Fire Drills and Suspensions, as of January
17 31, 2012. (Attachment – EXHIBIT B1)
18
19 2. School Health Services Monthly Reports as of January 31, 2012.
20 (Attachment – EXHIBIT B2)
21
22 3. 2011-2012 Violence & Vandalism Report as of January 31, 2012.
23 (Attachment – EXHIBIT B3)
24
25 4. Monthly Report of Attendance Officer as of January 31, 2012.
26 (Attachment – EXHIBIT B4)
27

28 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

29
30 **6. THE SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING**
31 **ACTION ITEMS:**

32
33 Motion: (Fabiani/Boultinghouse) to approve the following as one, A-E:

- 34
35 A. The approval of the proposed Greenwich Township School District
36 Calendar for the 2012-2013 school year as per the attached. (Attachment
37 – EXHIBIT C1)
38
39 B. The approval to amend the salary of Steven Wehrle, Teacher, to
40 \$51,794.00 (Step 4, MA+15), from \$51,110.00 (Step 4, MA), prorated for
41 the 2011-2012 school year effective January 30, 2012.
42
43 C. The approval to amend the salary of Alanna Schell, Teacher, to
44 \$54,353.00 (Step 8, BA+30), from \$53,671.00 (Step 8, BA+15), prorated
45 for the 2011-2012 school year effective February 1, 2012.

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D. The approval for the maternity/medical leave of absence of Kimberly Chila, Teacher, from March 26, 2012 through June 13, 2012 (end of the school year). Mrs. Chila will be using FMLA/NJFLA and sick days as needed. (Attachment – EXHIBIT C2)

E. The approval for the payment of tuition reimbursement for Stacy Podolski, Teacher, for a course to be taken at Wilmington University, (Spring 2012), “Theories of Counseling”, for an amount not to exceed the current NJ state college tuition rate pending completion/verification of required documentation as per Article XII, Section I, of the GTEA/Board Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

- Louis Fabiani – Yes
- Roseanne Lombardo – recused on Item D; yes to all others
- Lisa Morina – recused on Item D; yes to all others
- Susan Vernacchio – Yes
- Jason Murschell – Yes
- Alan Boultinghouse - Yes

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY/REGULATION

- Jason Murschell, Chairperson
- Louis Fabiani
- Lisa Morina

None to report at this time.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Lisa Morina, Chairperson
- Alan Boultinghouse
- Roseanne Lombardo

Motion: (Fabiani/Vernacchio) to approve the following as one, A-D

A. Workshops

- 1. The approval for the following individual to attend out-of-district workshop:

Name	Workshop Title/Location/Date	Cost
Sharon Gomez-Salvatore	Science Through Technology & Inquiry EIRC Mullica Hill, NJ February 22, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	\$139.00 Plus Mileage Plus Substitute
Laura Enuco	New Jersey Music Educators' State Conference New Brunswick, NJ February 23 & 24, 2012	\$150.00 Plus Mileage Plus Substitute
Daniel Giorgianni	Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Best Practices for Conducting Investigations, Interviewing Skills and Retaining Evidence Salem County Vocational School March 20, 2012 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	\$50.00 Plus Mileage
Alisa Whitcraft Katie Eckert Daniel Giorgianni	NJ ASK DTC Training The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College Mt. Laurel, NJ March 21, 2012 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	\$0.00 Plus Mileage

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B. Field Trips

1. The approval of the Request for Educational Trip/Transportation for the following:

Grade and/or Group	Destination/Time	Dates	Estimated Transportation Cost
Grade 7	Franklin Institute Philadelphia, PA 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	4/4/12	Two Buses \$360.00 Plus Tolls
Grade 2	Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia, PA 8:50 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	4/18/12	Two Buses \$360.00 Plus Tolls
Grade 6,7,8 (SADD)	Barrier Beach Ecology Wetlands Institute Stone Harbor, NJ 8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	5/9/12	One Bus \$300.00
Kindergarten	Cape May Zoo & Park Cape May, NJ 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	5/22/12	Two Buses \$600.00
Grade 5	Seaport Museum Philadelphia, PA 9:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	5/30/12	Two Buses \$360.00 Plus Tolls

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C. Local Professional Development Plan

1. The approval to submit the Local Professional Development Plan for the 2012-2013 school year to the County Superintendent (copy will be available for review in the Superintendent's Office).

1 D. Field Experience Students

- 2
3 1. The approval for the following students from Rowan University to
4 conduct their field experience at Nehaunsey Middle School one day
5 a week for seven weeks beginning Thursday, February 16, 2012
6 through Thursday, April 12, 2012:
7

8 <u>Student</u>	<u>Cooperating Teachers</u>
9 Gerald Doughty Andorko	Joshua Bomze
10 Leah Kiser	Joshua Bomze
11 Rajay Brown	Kate Caruso
12 Jennifer Stief	Kate Caruso
13 Lauren Callaghan	Violet Gregg
14 Christa DiStefano	Adriana Marini-Cossetti
15 Brittney Gillette	Nicole McGann
16 Chelsea Vander Pyl	Nicole McGann
17 Joshua Haegele	Andrew Mettler
18 Eric Hoffman	Sharon Salvatore
19 Dana Lefkowitz	Sharon Salvatore
20 Katherine Boyle	Patricia Seiner
21 Elizabeth Hall	Nora Traum

22
23 **Susan Vernacchio** asked if there were any problems with the kids paying for the
24 field trips since we are only now paying for the transportation? **Vincent**
25 **Tarantino** responded that the teachers collect the money and it doesn't seem to
26 be a problem in his building. There have been a few children who cannot afford
27 to pay so we have taken care of it.
28

29 **Jason Murschell** asked about the Rowan students coming into the building and
30 will they be requiring fingerprinting? **Vincent Tarantino** said there is a break in
31 between visits so they would be okay to come in.
32

33 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
34

35 **Lisa Morina** said that before we move on with the meeting, she said this board
36 has had some issues recently so she did some research in regards to
37 Harassment, Bullying and Intimidation training which we as a board are required
38 to do in year one of our term and in governance four. Some of those in between
39 years two and three have not taken the training. **Mrs. Morina** asked if we can
40 get Terry Lewis or the School Board Association to come in and do that since we
41 have had an issue where the police were involved. She feels it is a good idea for
42 this board to have some training in that since it took place in the school. **Jason**
43 **Murschell** said he will contact Terry Lewis and follow up on that. **Scott**
44 **Campbell** said they have a power point presentation on the website.
45

1 **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

2 James Worrell, Chairperson

3 Louis Fabiani

4 Roseanne Lombardo

5
6 Motion: (Fabiani/Morina) to approve the following as one, A & B:

7
8 A. The approval for Family Fitness Night to be held on Thursday, March 8,
9 2012 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the Broad Street School gymnasium.
10 (Alternate dates: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 or Thursday, March 15, 2012.)

11
12 B. The approval for the Greenwich Township PTA to use the Broad Street
13 School gymnasium and PTA Room for Family Fun Night on Thursday,
14 March 22, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Family Fun Night was
15 originally scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2012.)

16
17 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

18 Informational:

19
20
21 Nutri-Serve Food Management's December 2011 and January 2012 Board
22 Updates. (Attachment – EXHIBIT D1 & D2)

23
24 **BUDGET & FINANCE**

25 Susan Vernacchio, Chairperson

26 Alan Boultinghouse

27 James Worrell

28
29 Motion: (Morina/Lombardo) to approve the following as one, A1 & A2:

30
31 A. 2010-2011 Audit

- 32
33 1. The acceptance of the Greenwich Township Board of Education
34 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending
35 June 30, 2011.
36
37 2. Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings, Financial
38 Compliance and Performance

39
40 The acceptance of the Auditor's Management Report on
41 Administrative Findings, Financial, Compliance and
42 Performance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.
43 Further approval for the Business Administrator to implement
44 the recommendations as read and distributed to the public at
45 the February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting per the Corrective

1 Action Plan provided by the Board Secretary and on file with
2 the Business Administrator to be submitted to the County
3 Superintendent of Schools within thirty (30) days of this
4 meeting.

5
6 Audit Synopsis (Attachment – EXHIBIT E1)
7 Corrective Action Plan (Attachment – EXHIBIT E2)
8

9 **Louie Fabiani** said he needs clarification on several audit findings. He said the
10 computerized general ledger was not properly maintained and the cash
11 reconciliation was not accurately prepared. He said he doesn't know anything
12 about that and could he have an explanation on it? **Susan Vernacchio** said they
13 sat with the auditor and he said the cash reconciliation from the beginning of the
14 year did not match with what was on the general ledger. That is why you pay for
15 an audit; to see if there are any errors. She said we have the implementation of
16 the correction which was done through the treasurer and the Business
17 Administrator's office. **Scott Campbell** explained it further by saying since the
18 prior auditor didn't do such a good job, this auditor had to go back and perform
19 an audit of the prior years to match up with the numbers for this year. Everything
20 is now correct. **Mrs. Vernacchio** then said the state requires that we have "pay
21 to play" paperwork on any vendor that exceeds \$17,500.00. We were not
22 coming up to that amount at one time but over the course of the school year, we
23 were. In prior years, no auditor has sited us on this. **Mr. Fabiani** said we are
24 talking about \$78 million loss of revenue (Mrs. Morina and Mr. Campbell
25 corrected Mr. Fabiani by saying, it is actually \$87 million loss in ratables) and we
26 have a 2% cap that we can raise the budget from last year. **Mr. Campbell** said
27 prior years' tax levy is \$9.9 million and we can go 2% above that which equates
28 to approximately \$200,000.00 if we wanted to go to 2%; you can go the other
29 way also. **Jason Murschell** said for the purposes of the audit, the discrepancies
30 that were found were remedied and a plan was put into place to prevent it from
31 happening in the future. **Mr. Campbell** said with the "pay to play", you have
32 several vendors that come in multiple times during the school year and the costs
33 add up. Once you hit that amount of \$17,500.00, you have to ask for "pay to
34 play" to make sure everything is fair. **Lisa Morina** asked if that can be resolved
35 by a "blanket contract?" **Mr. Campbell** said we could do that but certain things
36 are excluded from that such as business with other school districts, state
37 contracts that we have and transportation.

38
39 Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

40
41 Motion: (Morina/Fabiani) to approve the following as one, B-E:

42
43 B. Transfer Report
44

- 1 1. The approval of the Transfer Approval Report for the month of
 2 January 2012. The Transfer Approval Report was approved by the
 3 Executive County Superintendent on February 8, 2012.
 4 (Attachment – EXHIBIT E3)

5
 6 ***Susan Vernacchio said for clarification, some of the transfers that were made
 7 needed to go through the County Superintendent's office.***

8
 9 C. Transportation

- 10
 11 1. The approval to amend the 2011-2012 Fall Joint Transportation
 12 Agreement between the Gateway Regional Board of Education
 13 (Host) and the Greenwich Township Board of Education (Joiner) for
 14 the transportation of three (3) students as follows:
 15

Student #	School	Cost
2011-08	Abilities Center Westville, NJ	\$11,088.00 *
2011-06	Kingsway Learning Center Haddonfield, NJ	\$11,971.80 *
2011-13	L.A.R.C. School Bellmawr, NJ	\$11,088.00 *

16
 17 The Joiner (Greenwich) agrees to pay the Host district (Gateway),
 18 \$34,147.80 which may be adjusted based on changes to the route.

19
 20 *(*This reflects a decrease in the payment from prior approval of the
 21 jointure on October 17, 2011.)*

- 22
 23 2. The approval of the contract between the Greenwich Township
 24 School District and the Gloucester County Special Services School
 25 District to provide transportation for a homeless student beginning
 26 February 13, 2012 and for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school
 27 year at a cost of \$234.00 per day for 80 days for a total of
 28 \$18,720.00.

29
 30 D. Petty Cash

- 31
 32 1. The approval to change the Petty Cash Fund for the 2011-2012
 33 school year from \$600.00 to \$300.00 to be shared between the
 34 Superintendent's Office and the Business Office. The Petty Cash
 35 Fund was originally approved at the May 2, 2011 Board of
 36 Education Reorganization Meeting.
 37
 38

1 E. Sale of Surplus Items

2
3 1. The approval for the sale of surplus items:

- 4
5 a. Approximately 30 HP Inkjet Printers between the ages of 5-
6 10 years old.
7
8 b. Black and Color Ink Cartridges for inkjet printers.
9

10 Items will be offered exclusively to residents of Greenwich Township for a
11 period of thirty (30) days. After the thirty (30) day period expires, any
12 remaining items would then be placed on www.govdeals.com for public
13 auction. All sales will be final and on an “as is” basis. This will be written
14 in the bill of sale. There is no guarantee the machines will function for any
15 period of time. The customer will have the opportunity to see the printers
16 or cartridges prior to purchase. Once the sale is made, it is final. Prices
17 shall be determined on a case by case basis.
18

19 **Louie Fabiani** said that Paulsboro is looking for used computer equipment and is
20 this something they can use? **Vincent Tarantino** said from what he reads, this
21 equipment has to be offered to residents of Gibbstown only and after that, it
22 would go on the website, www.govdeals.com, for public auction. **Lisa Morina**
23 wanted to know how we would notify the residents that these are available? **Mr.**
24 **Tarantino** said we could put it in the newspaper or on the website. **Mrs. Morina**
25 isn't suggesting putting an ad in the newspaper; why spend the extra money.
26 **Scott Campbell** said we can put an ad on our website. **Mr. Tarantino** said you
27 also need a time and place for people to come and look at the equipment.
28 **Roseanne Lombardo** said we can put a flyer in the Thursday's folder.
29

30 **Lisa Morina** said there are costs in the transfer report that are associated with
31 the bond referendum and she isn't clear on how much money was transferred for
32 that. Her question goes back to the last meeting where she asked for an
33 accounting of how much we spent (i.e. wasted) for the bond referendum that we
34 did not have in January? **Scott Campbell** said we encumbered a little over
35 \$30,000.00. **Mrs. Morina** asked if that \$30,000.00 was budgeted? **Mr.**
36 **Campbell** said only a portion of it was and today he received notification from
37 the county that for cancelling the election, it is going to cost us another \$800-
38 \$900 which will bring it up to about \$31,000.00. Plus there were additional items
39 for the auditor to perform the audit and additional communication costs for the
40 year. **Mrs. Morina** said it is tough to sit here after what we saw this evening and
41 then we wasted \$30,000.00. As a board member, it is embarrassing and a little
42 sickening and she wanted to clarify that. **Jason Murschell** said as someone
43 who voted to move forward with the bond referendum, it was before he knew we
44 were losing \$87 million in ratables and we were going to be in the “dire straits”
45 we are now. But once we found out, we put the stops to it. He agreed that it is

sickening that we put out that kind of money. **Mrs. Morina** wanted to remind Mr. Murschell at the board meeting where we passed the budget last year and celebrated a five-cent decrease, she warned the board that that was coming and the ratables were going to drop. Valero still has not closed on their final appeal and it could get worse. We then pushed forward with that referendum in a very quick way. **Mrs. Morina** went on to say it is tough budget year and she has seen in the last three or four meetings where we approved things that in her opinion are wasteful. It is also very difficult to look at your friends and neighbors whose jobs are on the line when we spend money at that kind of pace. As an elected board member, although some people dispute that, she wants to make sure that her opinion is on the record.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. REPORT OF SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

Scott A. Campbell

Motion: (Fabiani/Vernacchio) to approve the following as one, A-F:

A. Bills List

1. The bills as presented by the Business Administrator in the following amounts are ordered paid. (Attachment – EXHIBIT F1)

No.	Amount
P050	\$258,717.17
P051	\$7,128.63
P052	\$121,716.00
P053	\$635.20
P054	\$380.07
P055	\$1,366.35
P056	\$239,033.21
P057	\$18,101.37
P058	\$421,066.32
P059	\$45.75
P060	\$35.95
P061	\$266,196.75
P062	\$21,466.89
TOTAL	\$1,355,889.66

2. The approval that the following check be voided. (Attachment – EXHIBIT F2)

Check#	Vendor	Amount
12617	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	\$44,845.74

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B. Board Secretary's Report

1. The acceptance of the Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the months of **December 2011** and **January 2012**. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of *N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)3* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Attachment – EXHIBITS G1 & G2)

C. Treasurer's Report

1. The approval of the Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A:17-9 for the months of **November 2011** and **December 2011**. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report are in agreement for the months of **November 2011** and **December 2011**. (Attachment – EXHIBITS H1 and H2)

D. Revenue Certification

1. The Board Secretary in accordance with *N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)2* certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.

E. Board of Education Certification

1. Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(c)4*, we certify that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of *N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(b)* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

F. Transfer List

1. The ratification of transfers, authorized by the Superintendent, for the months of **December 2011** and **January 2012**, to give balances to new accounts and to balance existing accounts. (Attachment – EXHIBITS I1 and I2)

1 **Susan Vernacchio** said with all the work done by the auditor, have all the
2 financial statements been re-stated with the new numbers? **Scott Campbell**
3 replied that he put all the adjustments in as of December 31, 2011.
4

5 Roll Call Vote:
6

7 Alan Boultinghouse – Yes

8 Louis Fabiani – Yes

9 Roseanne Lombardo – Yes

10 Lisa Morina – Yes

11 Susan Vernacchio – Abstained on bills list P058 for Susan Vernacchio; yes to all
12 others

13 Jason Murschell - Yes
14

15 **9. OLD BUSINESS**
16

17 **Jason Murschell** said we have to discuss moving the election to November
18 before we can vote on the moving the election location and changing the hours.
19 He said it was not on the agenda but he feels we need to vote on it. **Louis**
20 **Fabiani** wanted to know if it was something that we are obligated to vote on; why
21 can't we just leave it at April 17? **Mr. Murschell** said he would feel more
22 comfortable if we had a discussion on it. **Lisa Morina** said she believes that
23 proper protocol is to vote what is already on the agenda before you bring up
24 something new from the floor even if we vote to table it.
25

26 Motion: (Fabiani/Boultinghouse) to approve the following:
27

- 28 A. The approval to move the Greenwich Township Board of Education
29 election location from Nehaunsey Middle School to Broad Street School
30 and to change the time from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – 9:00
31 p.m.
32

33 **Susan Vernacchio** wanted to know what the cost is to move the time from 4:00
34 to 9:00 versus 1:00 to 9:00? **Scott Campbell** said we will have the additional
35 cost for the workers and from the county but as of right now, he doesn't have the
36 exact cost. Last year he said it was \$5,600.00 just for five hours but that was the
37 total cost including advertising, printing of the ballots, etc. **Mrs. Vernacchio** said
38 with everything she has been reading, to move the election to November, the
39 township will pick up the costs of the election so the worst case scenario, we can
40 save be \$5,600.00. **Louis Fabiani** wanted to know if we move the time to 1:00,
41 will the children still be in school? **Roseanne Lombardo** replied, "yes". **Vincent**
42 **Tarantino** said it would present a problem if the time were moved to 1:00
43 especially with cars coming in. He asked the board to please consider keeping it
44 at 4:00. **Jason Murschell** asked if we kept it at 4:00 to 9:00, would our costs
45 remain the same? **Mrs. Vernacchio** said the costs would remain the same as

1 last year as opposed to not having any costs and no kids in the building if it is
2 moved to November. **Mrs. Lombardo** said you also have 60% of the voters
3 coming out as opposed to approximately 30%. **Mr. Fabiani** said when you move
4 the election to November, the people of Gibbstown are going to lose their right to
5 vote on the budget. **Mrs. Lombardo** said that our budget always passes
6 anyway. **Mr. Fabiani** said he doesn't have the right to take another person's
7 right to vote away from them. **Mrs. Vernacchio** said we do have the right
8 because the legislature in the State of New Jersey along with the governor said
9 we do have a right to do that and **Mrs. Morina** said we don't vote at a township
10 meeting. **Mr. Fabiani** said regardless if we are saving money, his opinion is that
11 the right to vote on an issue is more important than saving a few dollars. **James**
12 **Worrell** agrees with Mr. Fabiani plus he hasn't heard how much we are going to
13 save. **Mrs. Vernacchio** said we received the information and if you keep the
14 election in April, the costs will go up because there will be less townships able to
15 absorb the costs from the county. **Lisa Morina** said the cost share will be more
16 because we are only one of a handful of districts not only in the county but in the
17 state who won't be moving forward. As of today, there were almost 300 districts
18 that said it is a good idea and a cost-saving measure to move their election to
19 November. She said we sat here for almost four hours listening to the people of
20 Gibbstown that we need to look at everything. **Mr. Fabiani** said we are looking
21 at everything but when it comes to voting, the people of Gibbstown have the right
22 to vote on the budget whether to pass it or turn it down. **Mrs. Vernacchio** then
23 said if they turn it down, then it goes to the township who will cut things off. She
24 said the Budget & Finance Committee are going to do their best homework to get
25 that budget to where it needs to be and then you will have five people, that did
26 not spend the time that we are spending on putting this budget together, to cut it.
27 **Alan Boultinghouse** said he is in favor of expanded hours and also in favor of a
28 more centralized location but if the Superintendent feels it is an issue to have the
29 time pushed back to 1:00, can we vote on this to move the election to Broad
30 Street but keep the time from 4:00 to 9:00?

31
32 **Louis Fabiani** amended his motion to read: The approval to move the
33 Greenwich Township Board of Education election location from Nehaunsey
34 Middle School to Broad Street School.

35
36 **Lisa Morina** asked what the average salary was of all the aides that were sitting
37 here tonight? **Scott Campbell** said somewhere around \$27,000.00. **Mrs.**
38 **Morina** said in the last two meetings, we have spent \$27,500.00 for an audit that
39 we could get free of charge, we just discussed \$31,000.00 for a referendum and
40 at least \$5,600.00-\$5,800.00 for the election. Doing the math, that is over
41 \$60,000.00 and she is wondering how many jobs we could be saving? Because
42 it's not cash out of our pocket, we are just spending it. She also said if she was
43 the parent of a special needs student, she would be "ready to vomit". If they
44 were watching my kid, I would be up in arms and so upset of the votes that are
45 taking place here. She said that as a board, we are talking out of both sides of

1 our mouth. We are trying to save money and make cuts but then we are
2 spending money on things that our Governor has given us an opportunity to save
3 and has encouraged school districts to save money. We are supposed to be
4 advocates for these children and we are spending money on things that we could
5 do a better way. Three hundred other school districts must know something that
6 we don't know. She went on to say that she doesn't understand how we can do
7 that and then sit and look at these people that were here tonight with straight
8 faces. **Jason Murschell** said he is speaking for himself when he says he would
9 take what Mrs. Morina was saying to heart if when he looks at how things went
10 last year when it was voted on to get a more expensive architect. **Mrs.**
11 **Vernacchio** said that too was voted on before we knew that we were losing
12 millions in ratables. **Mr. Murschell** said we also voted to spend thousands of
13 dollars on an investigation that went for a third time for whatever reason. When
14 certain groups voted for certain things, that was "money well-spent". **Mrs.**
15 **Vernacchio** said it was "money well-spent" because somebody sent e-mails to
16 people inappropriately. She went on to say that she has nothing to lose here and
17 maybe she should stand up and tell everyone what that whole thing was about.
18 "What are you going to do, sue me? I'm done". **Mr. Fabiani** asked to get back to
19 the initial business but **Mrs. Morina** wanted to finish the question at hand when
20 Mr. Murschell said to her that he would have taken her opinion more seriously if
21 she hadn't voted for an architect that was more expensive. **Mrs. Morina** said
22 that we voted on an architect; not a school. You guys voted on a school; not an
23 architect. We also did not spend money on that architect, we didn't spend
24 \$30,000.00 on a bond referendum, we didn't spend \$27,500.00 on someone who
25 is not an expert in energy audits that we could have gotten for free. She went on
26 to say that whatever resentment you are harboring for the last year and a half is
27 a "cancer on this board". She is not speaking to Mr. Murschell specifically; she is
28 speaking to the board collectively. She said her opinions are not taken seriously
29 and that was a big issue with Pastor Lori Bass-Riley.

30
31 Roll Call Vote:

32
33 Louis Fabiani – Yes
34 Roseanne Lombardo – Yes
35 Lisa Morina – No
36 Susan Vernacchio – No
37 Jason Murschell – Yes
38 Alan Boultinghouse – Yes

39
40 Motion passes by a vote of 4-2.

41
42 **Lisa Morina** continued with Old Business in saying that two months ago we
43 approved a contract for strategic planning and she asked if a committee has
44 been formed for that? **Vincent Tarantino** responded no and explained that they
45 haven't even met with Dr. Ivory yet. **Mrs. Morina** would like to know when will

1 we be starting that? **Mr. Tarantino** said it is up to the Board. **Jason Murschell**
2 asked **Mr. Tarantino** what committee would be responsible for that and **Mr.**
3 **Tarantino** answered that you can establish one for it. It is a long, lengthy
4 process that involves the community and not something that can be done
5 overnight. He and **Dr. Ivory** have spoken and will be trying to schedule a time to
6 set up the preliminary plan and get everyone involved. **Mr. Murschell** asked if
7 there were any volunteers for that committee of three people? **Mrs. Morina** said
8 she will volunteer for that committee since she has a master's degree in that.
9 **Roseanne Lombardo** also volunteered for the committee. **Mr. Tarantino** said
10 as soon as the committee is established, they can meet with **Dr. Ivory**.

11
12 Continuing with Old Business, **Lisa Morina** said that back in September we
13 talked about shared services with the municipality and there was some
14 controversy on the board discussing what the agenda would be. Now that we
15 are in a "budget crunch", we have never had that meeting because the public
16 meeting for the shared services was turned into a presentation from the architect.
17 She wants to know where we are on shared services with the municipality?
18 **Jason Murschell** said we are actually where we were to being with. **Mrs.**
19 **Morina** said she thought that was a requirement that the state gave to them that
20 had to meet with us and discuss it. **Vincent Tarantino** said he remembers
21 making the recommendation to this board that we should meet and discuss
22 shared services. **Mrs. Morina** said if we are looking to cut costs, sharing
23 services with the municipality would be at the top of our list. **Mr. Tarantino** said
24 he did suggest it but was "shot-down". He brought it up at a meeting but
25 someone said it wasn't the right time to discuss shared services. **Mrs. Morina**
26 thought the question was what were we going to discuss and who would take the
27 lead on that? **Mr. Tarantino** said one of the items was shared services. He
28 also feels it is imperative that we meet with the town council on a regular basis.
29 **Mrs. Morina** asked who would be doing that and **Mr. Tarantino** replied that the
30 Budget & Finance Committee could do it or the Board President could establish
31 another committee for that. **Mr. Tarantino** also said if **Mr. Murschell** would like
32 him to take the initiative and send out an invitation to the town council, they could
33 meet at a mutual location or they could meet here at the school or at their facility.
34 He knows they are facing similar increases also but **Mrs. Morina** said their cuts
35 are not as severe as ours; we will be taking most of the burden. **Mrs.**
36 **Vernacchio** said to **James Worrell** that she understands he was at the municipal
37 building with **Mayor Shivery** and our auditor, who is also the auditor for the
38 township. She asked if he discussed anything pertaining to the board? **Mr.**
39 **Worrell** said he was there as a representative of the Parks & Recreation
40 Committee for the township.

41
42 **Roseanne Lombardo** asked how many times the committee will meet for the
43 strategic planning? **Vincent Tarantino** replied that we can meet one time with
44 **Dr. Ivory** but he believes it will be around four meetings. **Susan Vernacchio** said
45 it involves the public as well.

1 **10. NEW BUSINESS**

2
3 Motion: (Morina/Vernacchio) to approve moving the election to November
4 to correspond with the municipal election.

5
6 Roll Call Vote:

7
8 Roseanne Lombardo – Yes
9 Lisa Morina – Yes
10 Susan Vernacchio – Yes
11 Jason Murschell – No
12 James Worrell – No
13 Alan Boultinghouse – No
14 Louis Fabiani – No

15
16 Motion does not pass by a vote of 4-3.

17
18 **Roseanne Lombardo** asked Scott Campbell when the deadline is for someone
19 that wants to run for school board? **Mr. Campbell** replied that it is February 27,
20 2012. Candidates can pick up a packet in the Business Office or print one on-
21 line. **Susan Vernacchio** said if everyone is available, she would like to have
22 another board meeting on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. here in the Nehaunsey
23 Middle School library to discuss the budget. It will be a Workshop Meeting, no
24 action will be taken and the board may go into executive session. She then said
25 the Budget & Finance Committee will meet with the teacher's on February 27 at
26 6:00 p.m.

27
28 **11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 29
30 A. Letter dated January 11, 2012 from Lorie Muraca. (Attachment – EXHIBIT
31 J)
32
33 B. Letters dated January 25, 2012 and February 9, 2012 regarding the
34 Gloucester County Teacher Recognition Program. (Attachment –
35 EXHIBITS K1, K2 and K3)
36

37 **12. PUBLIC – AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

38
39 This is the time when anyone from the public who wishes to speak to the Board
40 may do so. Please state your name, address and phone number. The Board will
41 hear you concerns. The Board may or may not take action this evening. You will
42 be notified either at this meeting, by letter, or telephone of any action the Board
43 does take.
44

1 **Cathy Tortella**, 414 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, had a question about
2 moving the election to November and she wanted to know how much information
3 each board member received as to the content of the law and the pros and cons
4 of moving it to November? **Susan Vernacchio** said “a lot”. **Mrs. Tortella** said
5 she has read the law, P.L.2011.202 and she begs to differ with Mr. Fabiani where
6 he said all his rights to vote will be taken away. If you have it in November, we
7 have a chance to present our budget at 2% cap. We may not be able to do that
8 now. We also have the opportunity to vote for every single person that is running
9 for the board. She personally doesn’t feel we are giving up much; we are saving
10 money, we are allowing you to look at the budget and if we are over the 2% cap,
11 we can vote on it as a separate question. Mrs. Tortella then said you will also
12 have a vote on the people who are running for the board and you will have a vote
13 should the budget be over the 2% cap and she feels this board should re-
14 consider their decision. **Louis Fabiani** said the idea of the state government
15 saying that because your budget is below the 2% cap, it is all right for the people
16 to not have a vote on it. He said what if the legislature decides to make it a 4%
17 cap? Now you have a tax increase and the people are not able to vote on that.
18 Suppose they decide to not have a cap at all? **Mrs. Tortella** said we don’t vote
19 on the township budget. **Mr. Fabiani** asked if she trusts the politicians in this
20 state?
21

22 **Andrew Chapkowski**, 85 Adalisa Avenue, said he casts a vote for a politician
23 because he trusts they will do what needs to be done and when we cast a vote
24 for you on the school board, you are our representatives and you should be
25 listening to us. **Mr. Fabiani** told **Mr. Chapkowski** that this is the way he looks at
26 it and that is the way you look at it. **Mr. Chapkowski** then asked Mr. Fabiani if
27 he trusts government? The whole point of having a represented government,
28 which is what our democracy is based on, is that we put people in so that we
29 don’t have to vote on every little issue. He said it is unique for a school board to
30 vote on a budget but you can extend that and say why are we not voting on the
31 budget for the federal government—because we put our trust in our
32 congressman and our senators. The general public voted for them and it was
33 more than 26% which is another staggering number. The minority shouldn’t have
34 control over the votes. Elections are for the people that come out and they make
35 a point by voting. Twenty-six percent of voter turnout isn’t a “wave of agreement
36 going in one direction saying, close one school and turn down the budget”. Sixty
37 percent is 50 plus one—that is a majority. **James Worrell** asked what is keeping
38 the people from getting out to vote? **Mr. Chapkowski** said maybe because it is
39 an “off time” and you have limited hours. He would like to have seen the time
40 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and he feels moving it to where there is a larger
41 appeal would get more people out. Mr. Chapkowski stated that what this vote is
42 clearly saying is that this board does not trust what they are doing and we are
43 paranoid about the future. That is how you come off. **Mr. Worrell** said he is not
44 politicizing anything; he defended the constitution and he doesn’t feel he has the
45 right to take away someone’s vote. **Mr. Chapkowski** said there isn’t any

1 constitutional right, technically, for that to allow individual people in the
2 constitution to say you don't have the right to vote on a school board budget.
3

4 **Candell Maxie**, 114 Casperson Avenue, Gibbstown, wanted to thank Mr. Worrell
5 and Mr. Fabiani for defending our country but as she stands here today, her
6 husband is defending all of us right now. She feels the main reason why we are
7 here today is for the children and to give up that little bit of extra money for the
8 funding of our future is a disgrace while her husband is keeping all of us,
9 including those children, free. **Mrs. Maxie** wants to thank Mrs. Morina and Mrs.
10 Vernacchio for defending the children of this district. **Mr. Worrell** said he is
11 proud of her husband but \$5,000.00 isn't going to save the education of the
12 children and he has his opinion and his feelings. **Mrs. Maxie** said that this is the
13 school board and she doesn't feel you are here in the best interest of the
14 children. **Mr. Worrell** said he disagrees. **Mrs. Morina** said if you watch your
15 pennies, your dollars will add up. **Mrs. Maxie** said she is not taking sides; this is
16 the first board meeting she has ever been to and she doesn't know most of the
17 school board but she is speaking from a mother's standpoint and a wife of a
18 soldier.
19

20 **Lee Lucas**, 361 Democrat Road, Gibbstown, said we want to do what is right for
21 the children but as adults we have to face some of the hard realities of life.
22 Education in this state is a big money-making operation. Some of the people that
23 want to take away our right to vote on the budget just want to raise our taxes and
24 extract more money from us. **Mr. Lucas** concluded by saying that public unions
25 control a lot of the school boards and municipalities in this state but in the
26 Gibbstown school board, the public unions do not control here—and that is what
27 happened tonight.
28

29 **Nora Traum**, teacher at Nehaunsey Middle School, said setting aside whether
30 the election is in April or November, if in this difficult time we are looking at
31 everything and "leaving no stone unturned", for the good of the kids, has it been
32 considered to apply for a waiver because of the ratables decreasing as much as
33 they did? Maybe it would get shot down but at least then everyone up on that
34 board can say we left no stone unturned. Is a waiver being considered?
35 **Vincent Tarantino** said that he and Scott Campbell met with the County
36 Superintendent and the County Business Administrator realizing that this district
37 is \$2 million plus over adequacy. When he posed that question to the County
38 Superintendent, he told him it would be very difficult for him to approve that
39 because we are so far above adequacy. **Mrs. Traum** said that if he didn't come
40 right out and say, "no you can't", she would like to hope that as small a possibility
41 as it is, it is still being considered so we can look again and say that we've done
42 everything possible before putting this budget out to the Gibbstown residents to
43 vote for.
44

1 **Fran Traband**, 113 South Home Avenue, Gibbstown, said she was shocked at
2 how disrespectful people were as they were talking over each other so that
3 people couldn't be heard. We are in a very difficult time. She has worked all her
4 life and every company everywhere is making sacrifices. She hears it is for the
5 children and she understands that but families also have to make adjustments
6 and everybody has to give just a little and if everyone, including the parents and
7 the school board worked together, there probably could be something we can do
8 about this. She wants to give the school board credit because it is not an easy
9 job with people coming up and badgering them. They may not say what you like
10 but that is democracy. If everyone can be heard and be "gentle" with each other,
11 maybe more things can be worked out. She hopes everybody can think of it that
12 way.

13
14 **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

15
16 Pursuant to certain requirements of the *Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-*
17 *6, et. seq.*, which provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may
18 be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution.

19
20 The Board of Education for Greenwich Township, assembled in public session on
21 **February 13, 2012** hereby resolves that an Executive Session, closed to the
22 public shall be held on **February 13, 2012**, at **10:54** p.m. in the Nehaunsey
23 Middle School library located at 415 Swedesboro Road, Gibbstown, New
24 Jersey, for discussion of certain matters which relate to items authorized by
25 *Open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b)* to be discussed in closed
26 session.

- 27 • Matters Involving Individual Privacy
- 28 • Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship

29
30 It is anticipated that such matter may be disclosed to the public upon the
31 determination of the Board that applicable exception no longer applies and the
32 public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

33
34 Motion: (Worrell/Fabiani) to enter into Executive Session at 10:54 p.m. to
35 discuss the following:

- 36 • Personnel
- 37 • Legal

38
39
40 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

41
42 Motion: (Vernacchio/Lombardo) to return to the Regular Meeting at 11:22
43 p.m.

1 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

2
3 **14. ADJOURNMENT**

4
5 Motion: (Lombardo/Boultinghouse) to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 p.m.

6
7 Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

8
9
10 Respectfully Submitted,

11
12
13
14
15 Scott A. Campbell, Board Secretary