

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – SCHOOL BUDGET

The joint meeting of the East Windsor Township Council, Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District and the Hightstown Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Robert Patten and Mayor Janice Mironov.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Borough Council President David Schneider and East Windsor Deputy Mayor Hector Duke.

East Windsor Township Clerk Cindy Dye, Hightstown Borough Clerk Candace Gallagher and Board of Education President Rick Perez each read aloud a notice certifying that each body had met the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Following East Windsor's roll call, Ms. Gallagher called the roll for the Borough Council:

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sackowitz</i>	✓	
<i>Council President Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator; George Lang, Chief Financial Officer; and Frederick Raffetto, Esq., Borough Attorney.

The Board of Education proceeded to conduct a roll call for their body, and to adopt a Resolution authorizing them to enter into executive session at this meeting.

Mayor Mironov explained that the purpose of this meeting is to hear the comments and views of the public regarding the defeated school budget, so that the governing bodies may consider and include that in their deliberations. She requested that those speaking limit their comments to three minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Following is a summary of comments heard:

Name/Address <i>Notes</i>	POSITION ON BUDGET	
	CUT	DON'T CUT
Lisa Ernst, 106 Hausser Avenue, Hightstown		X
Roger Weck, 14 Pine Hill Road, Jackson, New Jersey (retired teacher/coach)	Don't cut athletics	

Name/Address <i>Notes</i>	POSITION ON BUDGET	
	CUT	DON'T CUT
Liz Trivisanno, 172 Hollingston Place, East Windsor	Don't cut athletics	
Mike Russo, D-22 Avon Drive, East Windsor (head wrestling coach at Hightstown High School, accompanied by team members)	Don't cut extracurricular activities	
Brandon and Kelly Tyers, 5 Farm Lane, Roosevelt	Don't cut athletics	
Andrew Astarita, 45 Twin Rivers Drive, East Windsor		X
Rachel Schechter, 2 Exeter Court, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Alex Schechter, 2 Exeter Court, East Windsor (student)		X
Marianne Nicklaus, 865 Windsor Perrineville Road, East Windsor		X especially music
Veronica Nicklaus, 865 Windsor Perrineville Road, East Windsor	Don't cut music program*	
Heidi Nicklaus, 865 Windsor Perrineville Road, East Windsor (student and band/choir member)	Don't cut music program*	
Katrin Astarita, 45 Twin Rivers Drive North, East Windsor (student and band member, accompanied by band members with instruments in disrepair)	Don't cut music program*	
Dara Epstein, 109 Gilman Place, Hightstown (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Jynne Ann Walton, 30 Twin Rivers Drive North, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Rachel Bellamy, 77 Bennington Place, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Michael Stecher, 1 Michele Court, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Danielle Petrix	Don't cut music program*	
Amy Pennenga, 197 Canterbury Court, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Sarah Lightman, 108 Hooverton Place, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Lisa Weidemann, 855 Windsor-Perrineville Road (student)	Don't cut music program*	
Gillian Astarita, 45 Twin Rivers Drive North, East Windsor (student)	Don't cut music program*	
David Lerner, Jr., 2 Sheffield Road, East Windsor (student)		X
Travis Rothbloom, 444 Dutch Neck Road, East Windsor		X
Bernard Lerner, 2 Sheffield Road, East Windsor		X
Kathy Patten, 135 South Street, Hightstown	Cut minimally and "as far away from the children as possible." Seek change at State level.	
Stephanie D'Ambrosia, 15 Whitcomb Road, East Windsor		X and fight at State level
Suzanne Simon, 10 Carriage Road, East Windsor		X
Nancy Keaveney, 20 Bradford Road, East Windsor		X
Terry Tuliszewski, 10 Taylor Avenue, Hightstown (teacher)		X
Don Fallon, 458 S. Main Street, Hightstown		X and seek change at State level

Name/Address <i>Notes</i>	POSITION ON BUDGET	
	CUT	DON'T CUT
Ed Fago, 13 Brooktree Road, East Windsor		X
Leslie Rubins, 172 Bennington Drive, East Windsor		X
Jan Amenhauser, president of East Windsor Education Association		X and seek change at State level
Audrey Rothbloom, 444 Dutch Neck Road, East Windsor		X especially music
Ann Shramke, 3 Piney Branch Road, East Windsor	If you MUST cut, cut administration budget, not programs.	
Ronald Schechter, 2 Exeter Court, East Windsor		X
Amy Lerner, 2 Sheffield Road, East Windsor		X
Denise Daniels, 25 Stonehedge Drive, East Windsor		X
Harvey Bailey, 63 Covington Drive, East Windsor		X
Leonard Baskin, 49 Stonehenge Drive, East Windsor	Don't cut music program*	
Paul Connelly, 222 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor		X
Clifford Mintz, 153 Dorchester Drive, East Windsor		X
Shelly Lightman, 108 Hooverton Place, East Windsor		X
Mel Simon, East Windsor		X
Deborah Scherholz, 2 Lynnfield Drive, East Windsor		X
Roseanne Weiss, 12 Exeter Road, East Windsor		X
Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, Hightstown		X
Julie Reisig, 6 Henry Marshall Drive, East Windsor (coach)	Don't cut athletics	
Stuart Wexler, 404 Bolton Road, East Windsor (teacher and coach)		X
Michelle Connelly, 222 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor		X
Lisa Bell, 1 Kent Lane, East Windsor		X
Nina Millard, 52 Meadow Drive, Hightstown		X especially music
Amanda Porter, 214 Stockton Street, Hightstown		X
Frank Mitchell, 5 Farm Lane, Roosevelt	Don't cut wrestling program	
Jessica Levy, 21 Bennington Drive, East Windsor (student)		X
Wilson Hernandez, 440 Kellington Drive, East Windsor (teacher and coach)		X
Barbara Jacobsen, 12 Chestnut Drive, East Windsor	X	
Ken Nathanson, 6 Cypress Court, East Windsor		X

Following the public comment, Mayor Mironov thanked all in attendance and announced that the next joint meeting would be held on May 17 at 7:30 p.m. She then declared the joint meeting to be adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC
Borough Clerk

**Many of those students requesting no cuts in the music program brought along instruments in various stages of disrepair.*