



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport. PURPOSE: Tax rate hearing

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, Melissa Sheffel, Aaron Sutherland, and Sylvia Covington.

Ms. Malone asked those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and pause for a Moment of Reflection.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newport Independent School District will partner with families and the community to nurture, educate, and instill core values in all students to ensure they reach their full potential.

TAX RATE HEARING

The purpose of the tax rate hearing. Any taxing district proposing to levy a tax rate which exceeds the compensating tax rate, must hold a public hearing to obtain comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate. The taxing district shall advertise the hearing at least twice in two consecutive weeks in the newspaper of largest circulation. The announcement for this hearing appeared in the Enquirer on August 15th and August 22nd.

In the absence of any public comments, Ms. Malone asked Mr. Watts to make his recommendation to the board regarding tax rates for 2023.

Mr. Watts is recommending the 4% (101.2) increase on real property which will still lower tax rates from the current year. He listed some the reasons for his recommendation as follows:

- To keep our salary schedule competitive with surrounding districts;
- Potential construction projects – particularly the stadium which is estimated to cost \$9,000,000 at a minimum. Current conversations include making this area an athletic complex so that other sports teams have access to better facilities also.
- Culinary program;
- Youth Scholarship Program and Gateway opportunities;
- Approved academic and attendance incentive programs.

Dr. Smith-Morrow pointed out that salary increases is an on-going commitment and must be considered when talking tax rates. We must also be prepared to pay for state-mandated salary increases which are too often unfunded.

Other comments centered on rising inflation, property evaluations, answering community responses to areas they felt the district needed to improve upon, and hiring bonuses.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board adopted a tax rate of 101.7 cents on personal property for 2023.

1345 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board adopted a rate of 101.2 cents on real property for 2023.

1346 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the board adopted the motor vehicle tax rate of 99.3 for 2023.

1347 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Dr. Smith-Morrow confirmed that the increase in revenue over 2022 is approximately \$340,000.

Before adjourning, Ms. Covington said she has heard a lot of positive feedback from parents regarding the two-day family engagement day. This additional time allowed parents better options to attend all schools if they had students across the district.

Mr. Sutherland said he was happy to be a part of the Men Making A Difference team that attended the high school on Monday. After interaction between some the men on the team and various students, he understands how this program will have a positive impact on students.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:03 PM

1348 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary