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The following items are contained in the December 17, 2009 Board of School Estimate Meeting Minutes:

1. Discussion on the Margate City School District Audit Report
2. Discussion of the Margate City Board of Education Strategic Plan 2009-2015 *Riding the Wave of Excellence*
3. Discussion of the 2010-2011 School Budget
4. Public Comment
5. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

The Board of School Estimate Meeting was called to order at 4:15 P.M. on December 17, 2009 by Mayor Becker in the Commission Chamber in the Margate City Hall at 1 S. Washington Avenue, Margate City, New Jersey.

Mrs. Palaia announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and read the following Certification Notice:

I, Susan E. Palaia, Secretary of the Margate City Board of School Estimate hereby certifies: Adequate notice of this meeting was advertised in the "The Press" on December 1, 2009.

Roll Call - Members Present: Mayor Michael Becker, Commissioner Daniel Campbell, Commissioner Maury Blumberg, Mrs. Linda Levitt Doyle, Mr. Christopher Storcella

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Theresa DeFranco; Superintendent of Schools; Susan E. Palaia, Board Secretary/SBA, members of the community

Mrs. Palaia reviewed the Margate City School District 2008-2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report during the meeting with the Board of School Estimate and public. She also reviewed the Management Report of Administrative Findings Report and noted that the report disclosed no recommendations.

Dr. DeFranco highlighted the key points of the strategic plan 2009-2015, *Riding the Wave of Excellence*. She explained how the plan was designed to tie to the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) requirements from the State. The strategic plan also identifies goals and objectives that are aligned to the district's curriculum, which has been designed to immerse our students in 21st century skill sets, with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and National Education Technology Standards. The plan further provides for alignment of the district budget to all aspects of it.

District salaries, benefits and Atlantic City High School tuition charges for the 2010-2011 school budget were discussed. Mr. Storcella reported that although the district decreased the school tax levy \$186,000 for the 2009-2010 school year and that there has not been a tax increase levy increase since the 2006-2007 school year; for the 2010-2011 school year a request by the Board of Education increase in the school tax levy should be expected. He reported that the Budget Committee anticipates requesting up to the cap set of the State without requesting any waivers from the Commissioner of Education. The dollar amount would be approximately \$400,000. Mr. Storcella reported that besides an over-all increase in general budgetary expenses such as salaries, maintenance and utilities; he believes much of the cause for the anticipated increase in taxes is due to the following: Atlantic City High School tuition increases, costs to cover the increased emphasis on special education, litigation and unknown costs with respect to the consolidation with Longport.

Mayor Becker opened the public comment portion of the budget hearing.

A member of the public commented that he was against any tax increases.

Motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Blumberg, to close the public comment portion of the budget hearing. Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Becker, Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Blumberg, Mrs. Levitt Doyle
Mr. Storcella

Nays: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Blumberg the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Palaia
Secretary Board of School Estimate