



**New Hope-Solebury School District**  
**Budget Gap Closure Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8, 2016 – 5:00 PM**  
**District Office Conference Room**

**Attendance**

- **School Board** – Mark Cowell, Maria Povacz
- **Administration** – Andy Lechman, Steve Gianni
- **Committee Members** – Jeff Kearney (Subcommittee Chair), Elizabeth Simon, Marcus Peckman, Stan Marcus, Joanne Reszka, Polly Wood
- **Presenters** –
- **Public** – Ann Leveille, Collette Martino, Tom Buck

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kearney at 5:02PM.

**New Business**

- The purpose of the committee is to identify means to generate revenue and reduce non-labor/non-personnel expenditures. Mr. Kearney indicated that we are starting with revenue, as it's the "simpler" of the two tasks.
- The budget shortfall of about \$4.1M driven by salary and pension costs.
- The subcommittee discussed opportunities for increasing revenues and decreasing expenditures, and that this committee would make recommendations to the finance committee. The subcommittee will make a table to help determine priorities – Level of Effort and High/Low Impact.
- The committee discussed revenue Ideas
  - EIT – Other municipalities that go above/beyond the 1% rate
    - Mr. Lechman will follow up with Keystone and will talk to other business managers about if increase has ever been discussed.
  - Grants that fit with the kinds of things we are doing
    - Dr. Gianni is working with grant foundation items.
    - Mr. Cowell asked about partnering with a low performing school district for grant funding. Mrs. Povacz also referenced an article from PSBA regarding grant funding.

- Utilities – Mr. Kearney inquired if there are dollars available for making our facilities more efficient. Ms. Simon suggested a PECO energy savings ideas inspection.
- Extra Curricular Activities –
  - The district will address a pay to play/pay to participate structure.
- Facility use fees were discussed.
- Ms. Simon suggested a parking pass system for generating revenue.
- Tuition for non-resident students was discussed.
  - Mr. Cowell suggested accepting exchange students and tuition students as well as partnering with universities.
  - It was suggested that we could identify students living out of district and use rental properties for enrollment.
- It was suggested that we examine procurement cards and rebates.
- Donations should be sought.
  - Both financial and product donations would be beneficial.
  - Dr. Yanni will start with the alumni association.
  - We will explore partnering possibilities for the Education Fund
  - We should explore a unified fundraising effort.
- A Voter Referendum for raising taxes was discussed and could be explored in the future.
- The art work was discussed. According to the audit, we cannot sell it; however, we will explore this further. Possibilities could exist to rent it.
- Next Steps
  - Dr. Yanni and Mr. Lechman and bring back summary to subcommittee along with next steps on each.
  - Next meeting – Review non-labor expenditure ideas.
  - Dr. Yanni and Mr. Lechman will bring expenditure reports and non-labor agreement costs.

**Public comment:**

- None

Mr. Kearney adjourned the meeting at 6:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Yanni, Ed.D.  
Superintendent