



Clinton Township Board of Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Clinton Township Board of Education Requests Questions from Town Council
Regarding Feasibility of Closing a School and Annual School Budget
Invites Community Members and Town Council to Budget Hearing**

Lebanon, New Jersey, April 20, 2016 – The Clinton Township Board of Education invites members of their community and the Town Council to attend their annual budget hearing that will be held at 7:00 pm, on Monday, April 25, 2016, at the Clinton Township Middle School. The Board will open, but will go immediately into a closed session and reopen for the Public Budget Hearing at 7:30 pm. During this meeting the Board of Education will publically answer questions that the Town Council has submitted to the Board, and questions from members of the community.

“The School District and Board of Education respect our council members, as we do all of our citizens and community members. We look forward to answering their questions and any questions from the members in our community during our annual budget hearing,” said Dr. Drucilla Clark, Superintendent of Clinton Township School District.

The Clinton Township Board of Education suggested to the members of the Town Council that both parties meet to review the District’s findings regarding the feasibility of closing a school and to have a subsequent meeting to review the board approved budget for the 2016-17 school year. *“Over the years we have worked diligently to facilitate an open and honest dialogue with the members of both the Town Council and our community regarding our educational and fiscal goals,”* Clark said.

In preparation for those meetings, the Board of Education requested that the Town Council provide, in advance, any questions that they may have regarding both topics. According to Clark, *“It is important from the District’s perspective to be able to respond in detail to any questions that the members of the Council would have.”*

After the Council shared their questions with the press, members of the Clinton Township community have expressed an interest in hearing the District's responses to the Town Council's questions. In response to those inquiries, the Clinton Township Board of Education believes that it is imperative to continue to communicate with all of the members residing in our community in a very open and transparent way.

Therefore, the Board of Education will address and answer questions that the Town Council posed to the Board and any further questions that members of the community may have regarding the budget, during our monthly board meeting. By answering the Town Council's questions publicly versus privately, we will create a very fair and equitable opportunity for every member in our community to learn about the district's proposed budget and to hear answers to the Town Council's questions.

In the continued spirit of open communication with the members of the Town Council, the Clinton Township Board of Education invited them to attend the Monday evening meeting to hear the answers to the questions that they posed to the Board. The Board shared with Town Councilwomen and Board Liaison, Amy Switlyk earlier today the decision to answer questions that the Town Council posed publically on Monday night, in lieu of a private meeting.

This annual budget hearing serves as the culmination of a very long and arduous process that the District Administration and Board of Education follow each year in order to develop, propose, and gain approval from the members of the Board of Education, the Executive County Superintendent and the New Jersey Department of Education.

The Clinton Township Board of Education presented the 2016-17 preliminary budget at a public meeting on March 21, 2016. During that two and one half hour meeting, Dr. Drucilla Clark, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Anthony Juskiewicz, School Business Administrator, presented the preliminary budget to the Board of Education and members of the public. Dr. Clark and Mr. Juskiewicz answered questions posed by members of the Clinton Township Community regarding the budget. The Board of Education approved the preliminary budget during that same evening by a vote of 8-0. The District posted the user friendly budget on the District website prior to the State deadline of April 27, 2016 - <http://www.ctsd.k12.nj.us/2016-2017-school-budget/>

The preliminary budget is reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, County Business Administrator and Educational Specialist, as well as the State Department of Education. The Executive County Superintendent conducts a mid-year review of the budget annually. The District's budget is also reviewed by auditors twice per year.

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