

Agenda Item Details

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Meeting | Jan 25, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting |
| Category | 13. Board Finance - Recommendations of the Administration |
| Subject | 13.01 Act 1 Budget Resolution - 2021-2022 Budget |
| Access | Public |
| Type | Action, Discussion |
| Recommended Action | That the Board of School Directors adopts the Act 1 Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution certifying tax rate within the Act 1 Index for the 2021-2022 Budget. |

Public Content

The purpose of this Resolution is to allow the school district to follow normal budget procedures, and dispense with the more complicated, expensive, and accelerated Act 1 budget requirements. This option is available only to school districts that are certain the next year budget can be funded without increasing the real estate tax rate by more than the index and therefore without seeking approval for any index limit exceptions. This Resolution may be adopted after the Preliminary Budget is available, or the Board has sufficient information to be certain the budget can be funded by a tax increase within the index. The deadline to adopt this Resolution is January 28, 2021.

This information was reviewed with the Board at the January 19, 2021, Board Combined Committee Meeting during the Preliminary Budget presentation.

[Act 1 Opt Out Resolution BASD.pdf \(117 KB\)](#)

Administrative Content

Motion & Voting

That the Board of School Directors adopts the Act 1 Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution certifying tax rate within the Act 1 Index for the 2021-2022 Budget.

Motion by Craig Neiman, second by Kim Shively.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Dean Donaher, Karen Beck Pooley, Craig Neiman, Shannon Patrick, Angela Sinkler, Michael Faccinetto, Kim Shively, Emily Schenkel, Winston Alozie

BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution
Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index
2021-2022 School Year**

Act 1 § 311(a), 53 P.S. § 6926.311(a), requires an accelerated budget adoption timeline and procedure unless a school district, no later than 110 days before the primary election, adopts a Resolution containing the certifications incorporated in this Resolution. After adoption of a Resolution containing such certifications, § 311(d) authorizes a school district to comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules as set forth in School Code § 687, 24 P.S. § 6-687. The School Board has reviewed the school district preliminary budget or has other information sufficient to determine that the budget for the next fiscal year can be funded based on increasing taxes by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index. In lieu of the Act 1 budget adoption timeline and procedure, the School Board wishes to make the required certifications and comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules.

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of Bethlehem Area School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the school district's Act 1 index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education ("the Department"). This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is 3.7%.
3. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to seek or use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.
4. The School Board has to date and, in the future, will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
5. The School Board certifies that the District will submit this Resolution along with information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of its public schools to the Department on a uniform form prepared by the Department no later than five (5) days after the adoption of this Resolution.
6. The School Board will not for the 2021-2022 fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index of 3.7%.

ADOPTED by the Bethlehem Area School District Board of School Directors at their Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2021.


Michael E. Faccinnetto, Board President


Stacy M. Gober, Board Secretary