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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EWING BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEWS 2013-2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

On February 25th, at a Board of Education Meeting held in Antheil Elementary School's auditorium, Superintendent Michael Nitti and School Business Administrator Brian Falkowski presented the 2013-2014 Preliminary School Budget to the public. The Board was then set to approve the budget, which must now be sent to the Department of Education for approval.

Their presentation, titled *"Prudent Past, Proven Accountability, Providing a Foundation for Life,"* detailed the district's path to building its budget and provided an overview of the new spending plan.

"We have always enjoyed strong community support in Ewing," stated Dr. Falkowski, alluding to the passage of six straight budget votes by the community, including the turbulent 2010-2011 budget election. "So our goal in building this budget was to keep all the programs that our community values and move our schools forward in areas such as technology and security."

Dr. Falkowski emphasized that this is a preliminary budget, and could change significantly based upon State Aid figures, which have not yet been released by the Governor's office.

Programs maintained in the preliminary budget include full-day kindergarten, middle and high school athletics, K-12 music and art, and after-school activities and programs. The preliminary budget also has funds for capital projects, to maintain acceptable class size, and move forward on school security initiatives.

Once again, the school budget will not be presented to voters, as the Board adopted a resolution allowing the district to move its board election to November and eliminate budget votes entirely for spending that falls within the 2 percent tax cap.

"By combining the Board election with the general election, we saved over \$20,000 in related costs," Mr. Nitti commented. "This money helped us expand our middle school activity offerings and provide taxpayer savings while the process ensures that we are respectful to the taxpayers."

The preliminary budget actually comes in at a 2.5% increase on the tax levy. The district has the flexibility to use waivers and previously "banked cap" to exceed the 2.0% standard as a result of dramatically increasing health care costs.

After County DOE review, Dr. Falkowski and Mr. Nitti will present on the final budget at the March 18th regular working Board meeting at Fisher Middle School. A public hearing on the final budget and final Board budget vote will take place on Monday, March 25th. The budget will then go into effect on July 1st, 2013.

All information pertaining to the 2013-14 budget can be found on our website www.ewing.k12.nj.us under the homepage Site Shortcuts menu.

For additional information contact:

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The Ewing Public Schools

Providing a Foundation for Life