Cape May Council petitions for school funding change

By CAYN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May County Council voted unanimously to reject a proposal to have the county school district increase its share of the regional funding formula in order to lower the cost of sending students to the regional district. According to the proposal, which was put forward by councilman John Ruskay of the 3rd district and put in writing by attorney Vin Gagliardi and a group of Cape May lawyers, Cape May is currently spending approximately $600,000 per year on education, and with the district, nearly double what it spends on other items.

Cape May has had a history of petitioning the state for additional revenue from the regional district, which includes Cape May, Ocean City, Wildwood Crest, Avalon, Cape Island and Stone Harbor. The district's John Fleming of Washington Street said that the district has been petitioning since 1997.

There were no comments from the audience, but Ruskay said that a spokesperson for the Governor’s Office of Finance, which holds the purse strings for the regional district, would be in attendance for the meeting.

There was also discussion about the crowd at the council meeting, and the fact that there were no people in attendance. Councilman Christopher Sheeley expressed concern about the lack of community interest in the meeting, and asked the council to consider returning the meeting to the annual town hall format.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cape May Council votes to stay in the regional district

By CAYN CHAMBERLIN
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The Cape May Council voted 6-0 to stay in the regional school district for the upcoming school year.

The council meeting was held at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 25, 2012, at the Cape May County Administration Building.

The council voted unanimously to stay in the regional district, with the exception of councilman Christopher Sheeley, who was absent due to a prior engagement.

The council also voted to continue the process of petitioning the state for additional funding for the regional district.

The meeting was adjourned.