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### Cherry Hill school officials agree to restore some maintenance funds

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#### Document Text

By RICHARD PEARSALL

Courier-Post Staff CHERRY HILL

School officials agreed Tuesday night to restore some maintenance items to next year's budget.

The consensus was reached at a meeting between board members and district administrators to put the finishing touches on a budget that has been the subject of considerable wrangling in recent weeks.

'We're fine-tuning about a tenth of a percent of the budget,' Superintendent Morton Sherman said.

The district's \$100.8 million budget proposal was defeated in April, after which township council recommended \$1.56 million in cuts.

The board decided not to appeal those cuts to the state, but voted 6-3 to make the cuts in maintenance instead of areas identified by council.

That angered some board members and residents, who said they persuaded voters to approve a \$52.6 million bond referendum in March on the promise that buildings would be better maintained.

On Tuesday, the administration proposed and the board generally agreed to restore some maintenance cuts, including \$165,000 for roof repairs at Kingston School and \$48,000 to replace exterior doors, mainly at Beck Middle School.

To make up the difference, the board will accept township council's recommendation to eliminate \$100,000 worth of software and trim \$76,000 in costs.

It also has state approval to trim \$165,000 from the amount it must pay into the state unemployment compensation fund.

The board balked at Sherman's proposal to eliminate winter track.

Board member Donna Cohen noted that 'this is a non-cut sport with heavy participation.'

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#### Abstract (Document Summary)

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