

Robbinsville Board of Education

155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Phone: 609-632-0910 (2201) / Fax: 609-371-7964

Frequently Asked Questions, March 18, 2019

1. Could you share your detailed “wish” list for the school district?

In Robbinsville, as we engage in a robust budget process we strive to address the needs of every student and our schools, while remaining fiscally responsible. Each year, the administration and Board of Education review recommendations and are required to make difficult decisions regarding additional staff, curricular programs, textbooks, classroom supplies, and maintenance in order to balance the budget. Our wish list is comprised of the following items, some of which we were able to include in next year’s budget, and others that we were forced to eliminate based upon our commitment to fiscal responsibility. The following items are included in the 2019-2020 budget:

- 3 Full time positions: K-8 Reading Specialist, Chemistry Teacher, Elementary Teacher
- Additional money for a Director of Guidance position
- Funds to assist with the transition for an Engineer for our IT department
- Continued financial commitment for three SROs
- Random Drug Testing at the high school
- Maintaining current curricular and extra-curricular offerings
- Funds to continue tackling many needed capital projects

The items listed below were eliminated from our wish list and are not included the 2019-2020 budget:

- 3 Full time teachers to reduce teacher course load and reduce class size
- Social Worker and Certified Behavioral Specialist to support students’ social-emotional, behavioral needs
- ESL Teacher to address increased population of English Language Learners
- Capital projects including Pond parking lot, RHS parking lot, additional roof replacements, HVAC

2. Why hasn’t the district used Municipal Bonds to fund capital projects?

School districts do not have the same flexibility to issue bonds to fund capital projects as townships or other public entities may have. The law requires school districts to seek voter approval through a referendum for the issuance of bonds that are usually used for buildings, additions or major capital improvements such as replacing heating-cooling systems and roofs. The district will begin discussions with the township to explore shared service options for the financing of a required maintenance plan.

3. Please provide an overview of class size?

Sharon School:

- Kindergarten: class size ranges from 20-21
- First Grade: class sizes range from 20-22
- Second Grade: class sizes range from 22-24
- Third Grade: class sizes range from 22-26
- Fourth Grade: class sizes range from 20-25

Pond Road Middle School

- Grade 5: 4 of 11 sections are comprised of 25-29 students
- Grades 6-8: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish classes consist of 25 – 31 students per class

Robbinsville High School

The following courses have class sections with 28 or more students:

- Health/PE
- Environmental Science
- US History I
- English
- Sociology
- Global Studies

4. Can you explain how the district is able to spend the \$600,000.00 that Robbinsville Extended Day program generates?

The R.E.D. program is a separate entity managed outside of our operating budget. We are only permitted to use R.E.D. funds for budget items that tie directly to the RED program. Currently, RED tuition helps offset the cost of facility maintenance, IT and payroll personnel, custodial fees, and utilities as they relate to the program. A few years ago we used RED funding to add a playground and playground equipment at Sharon School. Last year we utilized funds from RED to purchase a bus that is used for, among other things, RED field trips. Next year, we plan to explore the cost of after-school security at Pond and Sharon using RED funding.

5. Why does the district continue to hire the same professional services year after year?

The school district re-evaluates the contracted professional services on a 3 year cycle. Last year, Robbinsville conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the board of education attorney. This year the district is scheduled to engage in the RFP process for an architect of record and auditor. Next year the RFP process will include the district's health insurance broker as well as the PC&L Insurance Broker.

6. Why are the budget presentations not on the website?

Budget presentations are on the website. They are located under Budget Documents in the Business Office section on the About Us tab. [Please click here](#) to access each budget presentation for 2019-2020 that has been provided to date. You will also notice a link in the left hand column for prior year budget presentations. These presentations date back to 2015.