



**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**2010-2011 PROPOSED BUDGET ADOPTION**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Michael Reca, President  
Mrs. Lainie Potter, Vice President  
Mrs. Carol Boyne  
Mrs. Sharon DeVito  
Mrs. Melissa Foy  
Mrs. Florence Gange  
Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr.  
Mr. Matthew O'Grady  
Mrs. Faith Silvestrov

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Steven J. Mayer

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Kathleen A. Foster

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY**

Mr. Robert M. DeVita

**ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**2010 – 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET ADOPTION**

**MINUTES**  
**April 1, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING**

Board President Mike Reca called the April 1, 2010 Public Hearing for the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget Adoption to order at 7:04 PM.

**II. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Robbinsville Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Trenton Times and the Township of Robbinsville Bulletin Board. In addition, this notice was faxed to the Trenton Times and posted at Windsor School, Sharon School, Pond Road Middle School and Robbinsville High School.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Boyne	Absent	Mrs. Gange	Present	Mrs. Potter	Present
Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mr. Halm	Absent	Mr. Reca	Present
Mrs. Foy	Present	Mr. O’Grady	Present	Mrs. Silvestrov	Present

Also present were Superintendent Steven J. Mayer, Assistant Superintendent Kathleen A. Foster, and School Business Administrator / Board Secretary Robert M. De Vita.

**V. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mr. Mayer called for a moment of silence in remembrance of brothers Qasim and Ahad Muzaffar whose tragic deaths are mourned by the entire Robbinsville community.

**VI. BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Mr. Mayer provided an updated Power Point presentation detailing the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. De Vita noted that this budget, unlike those created prior to 2007 which were considered appropriation driven, is supported primarily through revenue taken in by the district.

Board members extended their appreciation to the public for their attendance. They thanked district administrators for exploring various methods of raising revenue and indicated that this will be a major Board priority over the next year. Mr. Reca commended the Robbinsville teaching staff and noted that their efforts create a solid foundation for students.

**VII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

**A. Tom Flynn**

Mr. Flynn stated that he has empathy for district teachers and administrators but encouraged teachers to take a pay freeze.

**B. Karen Centifonti**

Mrs. Centifanti asked if teachers have had the opportunity to weigh in on the matter of a pay freeze.

**C. Andrew Cohen**

Mr. Cohen asked what a wage freeze would save. Mr. De Vita indicated that it would save the positions of 13 FTE's currently slated for elimination.

**D. Evan Schwartz**

Mr. Schwartz commended the administration for the budget presentation but suspects that the budget will be voted down. He asked what steps the Board will take to get the word out to voters.

Mr. Mayer agreed that there is a high risk for a no vote but stated that the budget has earned the support of the Executive County Superintendent. He noted that the district is at a significant crossroads and that communication to residents through meetings, postings on the district website, press releases, robo-calls, or other methods has been - and will remain - a top priority.

**E. Ray Hart**

Mr. Hart asked what the district can do between now and July 1<sup>st</sup> to save money.

Mr. Mayer said that the district is managing appropriations and that all purchasing has been frozen.

**F. Vincent Costanza**

Mr. Costanza asked where the township stands on the school budget issue. He was perplexed that there is no direct link from the township website to the district site.

Mr. Mayer pointed out that typically the township is not involved in the creation of the school budget. He noted that the relationship with the town council is a positive one.

**G. Lisa Mosely**

Mrs. Mosely expressed concern that residents are not being reached.

Mrs. DeVito detailed an extensive list of communications methods employed by the district, i.e. flyers distributed by volunteer foot patrols, the annual newsline sent to every township resident, an information table at kindergarten registration, robo-calls, RHS voting campaign, meetings with the mom's clubs and other local groups, information table at Marazzo's Family Fun Day. Additionally, with regard to the March 9<sup>th</sup> referendum, the Trenton Times wrote an editorial endorsing the project.

**H. Jennifer Miller**

Mrs. Miller echoed Mrs. Mosely's concern.

**I. Joseph Lichtenfeld**

Mr. Lichtenfeld said that this is an unprecedented opportunity to provide information to the community and stated that the budget should be front page news.

**J. Mrs. Shapiro**

Mrs. Shapiro asked if absentee ballots can be sent home with students. Mr. DeVita indicated that they cannot be sent home. He directed her to the Information for Voters section of the district website.

**K. Ray Hart**

Mr. Hart noted that in the past Hockey and ½ day kindergarten were hot topics. He suggested that the district consider the use scare of tactics to encourage residents to support the budget.

**VIII. ADOPTION OF 2010-2011 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ROBBINSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Motion by Mrs. Potter, seconded by Mr. O’Grady**, that whereas the Robbinsville Board of Education adopted a tentative budget on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, to be submitted to the Mercer County Executive Superintendent of Schools for approval, and whereas the tentative budget was advertised in the legal section of the Trenton Times on March 29, 2010, and whereas the tentative budget was presented to the public during a hearing held in the Robbinsville High School on April 1, 2010, and whereas the total amount of the 2010 - 2011 budget is as follows:

General Fund	\$33,303,187
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 424,890
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 4,429,878</u>
Total Base Budget	\$38,157,955

Be it resolved that the Robbinsville Board of Education adopt the 2010 - 2011 Annual School Budget as detailed above. Be it further resolved that the following amount to be raised by the local tax levy for the General Fund is \$31,390,095 and Debt Service Fund is \$4,375,593 and the amount for the General Fund be placed on the ballot for the April 20, 2010 Annual School Election. Lastly, be it resolved that the Robbinsville Board of Education use an automatic tax levy cap waiver for loss of State Aid in the amount of \$541,817, which is included in the total general fund tax levy of \$31,390,095. State Aid to the district was reduced by \$1,690,658 for 2010 – 2011.

**Roll Call**

<b>Mrs. Boyne</b>	Absent	<b>Mrs. Gange</b>	Yes	<b>Mrs. Potter</b>	Yes
<b>Mrs. DeVito</b>	Yes	<b>Mr. Halm</b>	Absent	<b>Mr. Reca</b>	Yes
<b>Mrs. Foy</b>	Yes	<b>Mr. O’Grady</b>	Yes	<b>Mrs. Silvestrov</b>	Yes

**ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

*On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mrs. Foy, and carried by a vote of 7-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, voted to approve resolutions IX - XIV as indicated.*

**IX. APPROVE MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE FOR TRAVEL**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy**, that the Robbinsville Board of Education approve the maximum expenditure for travel for the 2010 – 2011 school year for all staff and board members is \$100,000 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b). The Robbinsville Board of Education also approves that an annual school year threshold of \$1,500 per staff member be established for regular business travel where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year. The Robbinsville Board of Education also certifies that as of March, 31 2010 the district has expended \$45,447 for approved travel for staff and board members for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

**X. APPROVE MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy,** that the Robbinsville Board of Education approve the maximum expenditures for the following in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a) & N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14:

Public Relations	\$ 5,000
Architect / Engineer	\$ 25,000
Auditor	\$ 30,200
Board Attorney	\$ 90,000
Occupational / Physical Therapist	\$227,500
School Physician	\$ 12,400
Speech Therapist	\$ 21,500

**XI. TERMINATE PARTICIPATION UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy,** to terminate participation under the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program

Be it resolved that the Robbinsville Board of Education hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the program thereby cancelling coverage provided by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A.52:14-17.25 et seq.) for all its active and retired employees;

Be it resolved that the District shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program;

Be it resolved that the District understands that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of cancellation of their coverage;

Be it resolved that the District understands that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact the District’s Central Office concerning a possible alternative health, prescription drug and dental insurance program;

Be it resolved that the District understands that this resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2010 beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the State Health Benefits Commission.

**XII. COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy,** to approve the Business Administrator to request competitive contracting proposals, as per 18A:18A-4, for the implementation of an energy savings improvement program.

**XIII. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy,** that the Robbinsville Board of Education accept a donation from Susan and Jaime Gearhart in the amount of \$11,000.00 towards the building of dugouts for the Robbinsville High School varsity baseball and softball fields. The Board extends its sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gearhart.

**XIV. TRANSFER REPORT**

**Motion by Mr. O’Grady, seconded by Mrs. Foy, to approve the transfers indicated totaling \$10,975.00 for the period ending April 1, 2010.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Account From</b>	<b>Account To</b>	<b>Description</b>
04/01/10	\$10,975.00	11-000-262-490-05-09 Sewer - PRMS	12-000-260-730-05-00 Operations Equipment	Replace HVAC control panel at RHS (damaged due to power surge and covered by insurance)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,975.00</b>			

**XV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

None

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

*On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mrs. Potter, and carried by a vote of 7-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, voted to adjourn the April 1, 2010 Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget Adoption at 8:53 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert M. De Vita**  
**School Business Administrator / Board Secretary**