



MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Michael Reca, President
Mrs. Lainie Potter, Vice President
Mrs. Carol Boyne
Mrs. Sharon DeVito
Mrs. Melissa Foy - Absent
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

Ms. Louise B. Davis

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

Board President Mike Reca called the November 30, 2009 Special Meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 7:03 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. Foy was absent. All other Board members were present.

V. DISCUSSION

Superintendent Steve Mayer initiated a discussion related to goal setting for the 2010-2011 Budget. He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was two-fold. The first objective involved the Board agreeing on parameters, including the percentage of increase (Cap of 4%, the maximum allowable by law, or less than 4%), for the Administrative Team to develop the Budget. The second aim involved a review of the Administrative Team's priority list.

Board members reviewed the priority list and other materials. A conversation ensued during which they discussed the following related topics:

- Clarification of excess surplus funds from 2008-2009
- The effect on residents of a request to approve the Referendum directly followed by a request to pass the budget
- The rise in medical, dental, and prescription costs and an exploration of alternative carriers
- The need to develop a consistent historical record of annual costs for future Budget preparation
- Average class size / Average staff tenure per building
- Textbook replacement cycle (5 years)
- Shipping and handling fees on supplies and educational products
- Co and extra-curricular programs
- Cost analysis of ticket sales for co-curricular and athletic events
- Facility maintenance
- Non-instructional support staff
- Transportation / Courtesy / hazardous busing
- District to contact Turnpike Authority for follow up
- Possible billboard revenue – Sharon
- Continued pursuit of advertising revenue
- Concern about taxpayer impact if at 4% cap

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Mayer recommended going to 4% cap but not beyond. He noted that even at cap the District will be under-funded based upon the definition of adequate per pupil spending established by the State. Board members weighed in and reached cautious consensus with regard to building the 2010-2011 Budget using the maximum allowable increase (cap) of 4%.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. O'Grady, and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, and carried by a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to adjourn the November 30, 2009 Special Meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise B. Davis
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary