



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

Louise B. Davis – Absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Spiezle, Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

Steven Siegel, Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

Board President Mike Reca called the October 7, 2009 Special Meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education 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

Present: Mrs. Boyne, Mrs. DeVito, Mrs. Gange, Mr. Halm, Mr. O'Grady, Mrs. Potter and Mr. Reca

Absent: Mrs. Silvestrov

Late Arrival: Mrs. Foy - 7:22 PM.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Educational Specifications for a Building Project (See Attachment)

Superintendent Steven J. Mayer introduced Scott Spiezle and Steven Seigel of the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. for a presentation entitled *Proposed Facility Improvements*. The presentation detailed construction of a new K-5 elementary school as well as renovations and repairs to the Sharon Elementary and Pond Road Middle Schools.

VI. DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued on the following related matters:

- State funding of new construction is equal to 40% of N in the following formula:
 $125 \text{ square ft. } \times \# \text{ of unhoused students } \times \$143.00 \text{ per square foot} = N$;
- State funding of the Sharon renovations will equal 40%;
- The new driveway configuration at PRMS will be eligible for 40% funding if “safety of students” can be proven;
- The timeline for the Sharon renovation project will be considered separately from the school building project. Modularity may be utilized during the renovation. In order to provide minimal disruption, the project may also be phased over two summers;
- To avoid costly delays, Spiezle representatives recommend ordering and storing new air conditioning equipment for Sharon Elementary prior to beginning this work;

VII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. John Ruch

After a question regarding the number of un-housed students, Mr. Ruch was informed that there will be approximately 800 students who meet this classification. The term “un-housed students” refers to the number of students slated to attend school in a new building.

Given the 40% state funding for renovations, he asked if the District might consider renovating Windsor Elementary to bring it to code. Spiezle representatives indicated that in order to do so an elevator would need to be installed. This would require a building addition and would not be eligible for state funding.

Mr. O’Grady recommended that the Board consider an analysis of Windsor to determine, among other things, the cost to bring the building up to code.

B. Jerry Foley

Mr. Foley stated a concern about the tax impact of such a project and asked how much it would cost the taxpayers. Mr. Mayer explained that the District is working with a bond counselor to determine the best way to structure the debt incurred by this project. He indicated that the Board understands the importance of his concern and is committed to minimal impact on taxpayers. Mr. Mayer also reiterated the District’s promise of 100% transparency.

Mr. Halm indicated that in comparison to the RHS project, which required hiring a new staff, this construction project will have significantly fewer start up costs. Additionally, the cost of running the building will be offset by the discontinued lease payments for the modulars.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS BEING PRESENTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL

On motion of Mrs. Boyne, and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, and carried by a vote of 8-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, voted to approve the following resolution.

A. SUBMISSION OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Robbinsville Board of Education approve the submission of the Educational Specifications for a new elementary school and projects to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and Department approval; and further that this submission will include construction of a new elementary school, renovations at the Sharon Elementary School, and renovations at Pond Road Middle School, with Amendment of the 2005-10 Long Range Facilities Plan to be consistent with these Projects. The Board authorizes Spiezle Architectural Group Inc., to make these submissions to the New Jersey Department of Education on behalf of the District.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mrs. Boyne, and seconded by Mr. Halm, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to move to Executive Session at 8:18 PM.

X. RECONVENE TO PUBLIC SESSION – 8:50 PM

XI. PERSONNEL RESOLUTION (A.1,4-C.2)- See Attachment

On motion of Mrs. Boyne, and seconded by Mr. O'Grady, and carried by a vote of 8-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, voted to approve the following resolutions related to Personnel: A.1,4-C.2. Mr. Halm abstained on Item A.4.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOARD COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mr. Mayer requested that if two committee members cannot make a committee meeting, a new, mutually agreeable date should be established and the meeting should be rescheduled. If a new date cannot be determined, the original date should be maintained and the Board President should be invited to attend.

B. RATE LOCK

Mr. O'Grady requested that the District look into obtaining a rate lock for the construction project. Mr. Mayer agreed to check with the Bond Counselor.

C. HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mrs. DeVito informed the group that the annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled to take place at PRMS on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. She suggested that a space to distribute information and answer questions about the referendum be included.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. DeVito, and seconded by Mrs. Potter, and carried by a vote of 8-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to adjourn the October 7, 2009 Special Meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise B. Davis
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary