



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

Ms. Louise B. Davis

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Richard Grip, Statistical Forecasting, LLC
Scott Spiezle, Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.
Steven Siegel, Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

President Mike Reca called the September 9, 2009 Special Meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 6:07 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

All Board members were present. Mrs. Boyne arrived at 6:21 PM. Mr. O'Grady arrived at 7:01 PM.

V. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Dr. Richard Grip, Demographer

Commissioned by the Board in June, 2009 to generate a Demographic Study, Dr. Richard Grip presented an overview of this study created to project future grade enrollments, determine the effects of the housing market on enrollment projections, and to assist the Board in developing options for future building plans. (See Attachment)

VII. DISCUSSION

Based upon Dr. Grip's presentation, the Board discussed the implications for District facilities. The following matters were included in the conversation:

- Coalition of Affordable Housing (COAH) – A discussion with township officials will be necessary to discern the level of commitment. Minimal impact is expected.
- Possible development might include the Gordon Simpson Tract (up to 200 market rate homes possible) and two developments on Hankins Road (totaling 50 – 60 units of market rate housing). This information was not available to Dr. Grip when he completed the study therefore he requested that the Board email him the details to allow for follow up with township officials and, if necessary, to update the Demographic Study.
- Functional Capacity / Educational Capacity - Sharon and Pond are currently at or beyond maximum functional and educational capacity resulting in, among other things, core facilities having reached the breaking point.
- According to Dr. Grip's study, projected district enrollment by the 2013-2014 school year will total 3,341-3,399, an increase of 613 – 661 students.

VIII. BREAK (5 Minutes)

IX. DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the following options as possible next steps:

- Consideration was given to building for 500 (2 grades of students) or 750 (3 grades of students);
- Possible RHS addition to house Pre-K and Kindergarten;
- W. Manor Way warehouse considered and dismissed as possible site due to size (900,000 square feet) and financing constraints;
- Administration favors new Pre K – 5 school on a new site or replacing the existing 1958, 1965 and 1988 sections of Sharon with a new facility with the capacity to house approximately 1600 students in grades Pre K - 4 or Pre K - 5 (This option would save the 2001 addition.);
- Demolition and rebuilding of Sharon including possible acquisition of adjacent property for expansion;
- Possible addition to PRMS or construction of a stand-alone two story facility to house grades 6 – 8 on the Pond site;
- Spiezle representatives recommended an addition to Sharon and building a new school on PRMS site with core facilities for 750 students and classroom space for two grade levels;
- A poll conducted among Board members resulted in consensus. They agreed to pursue a stand-alone building at PRMS and upgrades to Sharon including a new roof, replacement of windows, and installation of air conditioning throughout the building;
- Mr. Mayer noted that he would hold a meeting with administrators during the week of September 14th to determine a grade configuration for the new building. In addition, he indicated that he would contact township officials regarding PRMS use of township sports fields;
- In discussing the timeline, Spiezle representatives pointed out that a Referendum to approve the Project could take place in March 2010. School Business Administrator Louise B. Davis informed the Board that the District’s current bonding capacity stands at \$39.053.00.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:30 – 10:00)

XI. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The September 9, 2009 Special Meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education adjourned at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise B. Davis
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary