



**ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012 – 6:00 PM
RHS STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Michael Reca, President

Mrs. Carol Boyne, Vice President

Dr. Vincent J. Costanza

Mrs. Sharon DeVito

Mrs. Florence Gange

Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr.

Mr. Richard Kasper

Mr. Keith Kochberg

Mrs. Faith Silvestrov

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Steven J. Mayer

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kathleen A. Foster

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Robert DeVita

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING

January 9, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

President Mike Reca called the January 9, 2012 special meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 6:09 PM. He followed by reading the Statement of Public Meetings.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Boyne	Present	Mr. Kasper	Arrived – 7:42 PM
Dr. Costanza	Present	Mr. Kochberg	Present
Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mr. Reca	Present
Mrs. Gange	Absent	Mrs. Silvestrov	Present
Mr. Halm	Present		

Also present:

Steven J. Mayer, Superintendent
Kathleen A. Foster, Assistant Superintendent
Robert M. DeVita, School Business Administrator
Scott Downie, Spiegle Group Architectural Firm

IV. FACILITIES

As a follow-up to the October 27, 2011 Facilities Retreat, Architect Scott Downie provided the Board with multiple options for facilities expansion in order to meet the district's increasing enrollment needs.

A. Sharon Elementary School (See attachment for cost options)

1. Cafeteria and Kitchen Renovation - Utilize stage area and current music room to enlarge and create more user-friendly cafeteria / multi-purpose room
2. Addition of a 2 story classroom wing consisting of 20 classrooms (with an option for 22, 24 or 26 classrooms)
3. Stand-alone Field House for school and community use

B. Pond Road Middle School (See attachment for cost options)

1. 4 Classroom addition
2. Media Center renovation to include 5 new classrooms
3. Cafeteria and Kitchen expansion to include new building entrance
4. Gymnasium addition (instead of a Field House at Sharon Elementary School)

C. New Stand Alone Building - \$35 Million

1. To house grades 3 – 5 (750 students)
2. 36 classrooms (and 2 flex classrooms)

The Board weighed the merits of Spiegle's proposals and discussed the following related matters:

- Sale of Windsor School
- Possible use of modulars for new construction
- Opportunities for funding – including grant funding
- Parking options
- Renovation / construction timeline
- Timeline for December 2012 referendum - Mrs. DeVito noted that in the event of a failed referendum, the 4th grade class (with a projected enrollment of 282 students) will have to be split between two buildings in September 2013.

The Board asked Mr. Downie to come up with pricing options on the following additional scenarios:

A. Sharon Elementary School

1. 24 classroom addition
2. Smaller, attached multi-purpose room/gym
3. Cafeteria expansion as planned
4. Upgraded mechanicals, floors, windows, and ceilings for the old portion of the building.

B. Pond Road Middle School

1. 5 classrooms in the media center
2. Expansion of cafeteria as originally discussed

C. Stand-alone School

1. Comparative price for an expandable 500 seat school instead of 750

V. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. Vince Calcagno

Mr. Calcagno recommended that the Board develop a site plan for Windsor and indicated that there may be a wetland issue with the property. He asked for clarification on the revenue anticipated from the construction of a stand-alone field house.

B. John Ruch

Mr. Ruch complimented the Board's planning efforts and noted, for the benefit of the public, that there was no cost to the district for a charette (planning session) sponsored by Spiegle last fall to generate a variety of expansion options. He said that if Windsor is sold before the renovations are complete, the district will lose four classrooms. Mr. Ruch also expressed that the Field House should be considered a necessary part of the core and that, in his view, investing in the core facilities will be the most likely path to success.

C. Shayna Ciaccio

Mrs. Ciaccio asked the reasoning behind the option to make the Pond Road Middle School's Media Center smaller.

Dr. Mayer explained that because Pond's Media Center is oversized and much of the existing space is unutilized, creating additional classroom space will allow for a more efficient use of the space.

VI. BREAK – 7:45 – 7:55

VII. 2012-2013 BUDGET

Mr. DeVita distributed a handout detailing the 2012-2013 budget. He indicated that even with an anticipated revenue increase of \$1.1 Million in 2012-2013, the proposed budget will reach the mandated 2% cap. If the township tax rate stays level, this will translate to 2.5 cents of tax levy impact or \$97 per year for the average Robbinsville homeowner.

Items that will impact the 2012-2013 budget include:

- Increased health care costs
- Possible rebid of transportation routes if current contractors cannot deliver
- Rising energy costs

Mr. DeVita provided the budget timeline:

- Governor's State of the State Address to take place mid-February
- Within 48 hours of the address, the State will announce aid figures
- End of February – Districts must adopt a tentative budget
- End of March – Formal budget adoption

Dr. Mayer explained the process the district employs to create the budget. He said that a ratings system of 1 – 3 is used to establish budget priorities within each building. Items rated #1 are mandated by the State and therefore non-negotiable. Items ranked #3 are strong but of a lower priority than items with a rating of #2. Mayer stated that across the district there have been requests for 10 FTEs (Full-time Equivalent) employees for 2012-2013. Given the constraints of the 2% cap, he noted that it will not be possible to fill each of these requests and emphasized the importance of continued transparency as the process moves forward.

VIII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. Tom McEntee

Mr. McEntee commented on the importance of building the district's reputation through innovation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Kasper and seconded by Mrs. DeVito the Board voted 8-0 (with Mrs. Gange absent) to adjourn the January 9, 2012 special meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. DeVita
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary