



**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Shaina Ciaccio**

**Ms. Leslie Dee**

**Mrs. Sharon DeVito**

**Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr.**

**Mr. Craig Heilman**

**Mr. Keith Kochberg**

**Mr. Matthew O'Grady**

**Mrs. Faith Silvestrov**

**Mr. Richard Young**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Dr. Steven J. Mayer**

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Dr. Kathleen A. Foster**

**SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY**

**Ms. Christina Moskal**

**ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**April 12, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING**

Board President Matthew O’Grady called the April 12, 2016 special meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. He read the *Statement of Public Meetings* and led the flag salute.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Ciaccio	Present	Mr. Halm	Absent	Mr. O’Grady	Present
Ms. Dee	Present	Mr. Heilman	Present	Mrs. Silvestrov	Present
Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mr. Kochberg	Present	Mr. Young	Absent

**III. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

The Board discussed the disposition of Windsor Elementary School in order to determine a best option for moving forward. Mr. O’Grady began by summarizing the discussion of Windsor during the March 29, 2016 meeting. At that time, because the Board voted 4-4 to reject the sale to the highest bidder during an auction that took place on March 2, the resolution did not pass. (The high bid was \$210,000.) Mr. O’Grady indicated that since the Board meeting on March 29 two new developments have taken place.

1. As a result of a recent discussion between Dr. Mayer, Mayor Fried and Township Engineer Tim McGough, Robbinsville Township has expressed an interest in the property
2. The bidder has withdrawn his offer

Dr. Mayer noted that the purchase price – which, to tax payers, translates to approximately 1 cent – will remain the same. He stated that Facilities Manager Kim Keener recently visited Windsor School with Robbinsville Director or Recreation Joe Barker. If the Board decides to move in this direction, it will be a win-win for both the Board and the Township.

Mr. O’Grady asked for comments from members of the Board.

Given that the high bid was \$210,000 and if the township purchase moves forward it will pay the Board \$231,000 for the property, Mrs. DeVito asked for clarification on the price. Dr. Mayer indicated that if the bid from the auction had gone through, the bidder would have paid \$231,000 in total (\$210,000 to the Board and \$21,000 to the auctioneer).

Mrs. Ciaccio asked how the purchase of the Windsor School property by the Township might impact the total township tax rate. Dr. Mayer explained that it would likely be made with open space and recreation funds and thus will not impact tax payers. He also noted that the Mayor is striving for a zero percent tax increase in the municipal budget.

After the Board shared a few additional comments, Mr. O’Grady opened the floor for public comment.

**IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

**Mike McGowan**

Mr. McGowan commended the Board members that dissented, voting against rejecting the bid, during the March 29 Board meeting. He discussed Windsor as a historic district and noted that this distinction affects the valuation

of the property. Dr. Mayer expressed appreciation for Mr. McGowan's comments and noted that although Mr. Young and Mr. Halm were absent due to prior work commitments, they, too, are in favor or working with the Township.

**Jeff Harkness**

Mr. Harkness indicated that he was involved with the process of having Windsor Township added to the National Register of Historic Places. He said that at that time a member of the Board of Education specifically requested that Windsor Elementary School be excluded. He also expressed satisfaction with the current outcome.

**Marilyn Yasko**

Mrs. Yasko said that she is happy that the Township will purchase Windsor. She confirmed Mr. Harkness' assertion that Windsor Elementary School should have been included as a contributing member in the Historic Register and referred to the Auerbach Report which details the entire process.

**Aaron Hobart**

Mr. Hobart commented on the assessed value of the Windsor property vs. the bid amount and asked how the funds from the sale will be allocated. When Dr. Mayer explained that they would be used to pay down debt service he agreed that that will be the best use those funds.

**Janet Van Nest**

As former President of the Historical Society, Mrs. Van Nest indicated that if Windsor had been torn down it would have been a detriment to the character of the town. She was very pleased with the outcome.

**Kim Johnson**

Mrs. Johnson expressed that she is pleased with the Board's decision to work with Township officials and noted that she would like to see the school added to the Historic Register.

**XIV. RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ROBBINSVILLE TOWNSHIP**

On motion of Mrs. Ciaccio and seconded by Mr. Heilman, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to enter the process of developing a Memorandum of Agreement with Robbinsville Township officials to sell the Windsor School building and property to Robbinsville Township for \$231,000.00 to place the property in Open Space and the building as part of the Township Recreation Department.

**Comment**

Mr. O'Grady stated that the resolution to develop a Memorandum of Agreement is the result of what happens with deliberation and the determination to listen to all involved parties.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mrs. Ciaccio and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to adjourn the April 12, 2016 special meeting at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Moskal  
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary