



PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Matthew O’Grady, President

Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr., Vice President

Mrs. Shaina Ciaccio

Ms. Leslie Dee

Mrs. Sharon DeVito

Mr. Craig Heilman

Mrs. Jane Luciano

Mr. Richard Young

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kathleen A. Foster

ACTING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Kimberly Tew

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Beth Brooks

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

March 13, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

President Matthew O’Grady called the March 13, 2017 meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 6:03 PM. He read the *Statement of Public Meetings* and led the flag salute.

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Ciaccio	Present	Mr. Heilman	Present	Mr. O’Grady	Present
Ms. Dee	Present	Mr. Halm	Absent	Mr. Young	Present
Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mrs. Luciano	Arrived 6:07		

III. MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Ms. Dee and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to convene in Executive Session at 6:05 PM to discuss the following topics. Mr. Halm was absent.

A. Student Hearing

IV. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION

On motion of Mrs. DeVito and seconded by Mr. Young, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to resume Public Session at 7:00 PM. Mr. Halm was absent.

V. ADD RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT TO AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Ciaccio and seconded by Mrs. Luciano, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to add a recommendation for alternative placement to the agenda. Mr. Halm was absent.

VI. ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION FOR ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT

On motion of Mrs. Luciano and seconded by Mrs. Ciaccio, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to accept a recommendation for alternate placement as indicated. Mr. Halm was absent.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has recommended that the suspension of student bearing identification number 170179 (“the Student”) be continued;

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2017, a formal disciplinary hearing was held before the Board of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3;

WHEREAS, at the formal disciplinary hearing, the Board of Education received testimony from the Robbinsville High School administration and the Student and his/her parents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Robbinsville Board of Education hereby continues the suspension of the Student until the next regular board meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby determines that the Student shall not be present on any of the Board of Education’s school premises before, during, and after the regularly-scheduled school day during the period of his/her suspension, unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby determines that the Student shall not be permitted to participate in any athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board of Education, and shall not be present for, or attend, any Board of Education sponsored activities, either on Board of Education premises or in any school district where the Robbinsville School District is participating in the activities during the period of suspension;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the suspension shall be reviewed at every subsequent regular board meeting to determine whether the suspension will be continued until the next regular board meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an alternate education shall continue to be provided to the Student during his/her suspension.

VII. TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION – Dr. Kathie Foster / Ms. Beth Brooks

Dr. Foster provided the budget presentation and detailed the district’s fiscal forecast for the 2017-2018 school year. She indicated that the average Robbinsville homeowner (with a home value of \$369,800) is looking at a tax increase of \$131.48 for the year. She discussed the impact of living within a mandated cap of 2% combined with state aid that continues to remain flat in a time when enrollment continues to rise. The district plans to maintain current programs and extra-curricular offerings but is unable to allocate funding to introduce new programs. Dr. Foster pointed out that the Chromebook initiative has been scaled back, improvements to the technology infrastructure must be delayed and there are no plans to add to capital reserve. She also noted that a reduction in staff (2FTEs) has been necessary to remain within the cap.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Board members discussed the unique fiscal challenges facing Robbinsville Schools. As a high performing district, the Board is proud of the district’s continued efforts to do more with less. Board members expressed frustration with the state’s unwillingness to fund the aid formula established in 2008 and designed to provide all students in New Jersey with a thorough and efficient education.

IX. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. DEBBIE BAER

- Thanked the Board and administration for maintaining K-3 class size at around 20 students
- Commended the district’s teaching staff
- Expressed anger with the state for ignoring their own legally mandated funding formula

B. SHANNON GAFGEN

- State response with regard to underfunding
- District should be rewarded for doing more with less
- Will be happy to join forces with district to put pressure on the state to fund the formula
- Chromebooks – Can students in grades 7 & 8 bring their own devices? Mr. O’Grady indicated that the district will review the policy.

C. MR. SHAH

- State Aid Formula
- New business in town and tax trickle down

D. RAMACHANDRAN VENUGOPAL

- Advanced Placement Classes
- Teacher Retention

E. NUSHIN KAHANI

- \$1.2M budget shortfall
- 1 time revenue items
- Employee health care contributions
- School tax collection process
- Student Enrollment
- Attorney role in state funding matter

F. KATINA BLANDO

- Grass roots effort needed – Letter writing campaign to legislators about funding formula

X. APPROVE RESOLUTIONS

On motion of Mrs. DeVito and seconded by Ms. Dee, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to adopt the 2017-2018 tentative budget as indicated. Mr. Halm was absent.

A. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET: ROBBINSVILLE SCHOOLS 2017-2018

RESOLVED, that the Board adopt the following resolution to approve and submit the proposed 2017-2018 annual school budget. The Board also accepts the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2017-2018 State aid and authorizes the Administration to make minor adjustments in the budget required by the Mercer County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

WHEREAS, P.L. 2013, chapter 280 requires the submission of an itemized budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools by March 20, 2017;

WHEREAS, the Executive County Superintendent will review the budget documents and either approve them or recommend adjustments;

WHEREAS, the Board will have additional opportunities to modify this budget at future Board meetings, after review by the Executive County Superintendent, or at the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Activity Center at the Robbinsville High School, 155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road;

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends that the Board approve and submit the following proposed 2017-2018 annual school budget and accept the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2017-2018 State aid;

WHEREAS, supporting documentation of this budget also contains an itemization of certain expenditures required under administrative regulations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the tentative budget be approved for FY 2017-2018 using the 2017-2018 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 40,988,070	\$ 36,493,692
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 434,007	\$ 0
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 5,484,502</u>	<u>\$ 5,381,260</u>
Total Base Budget	\$ 46,906,579	\$ 41,874,952

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Trenton Times in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The tentative budget general fund tax levy, as per N.J.S.A. 18A:75-38, includes a tax levy adjustment for increases in health care cost increases in the amount of \$243,460 and for increases in enrollment in the amount of \$395,388.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Robbinsville High School, 155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road, New Jersey on April 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2017-2018 School Year.

The school district has prepared programs and services in addition to the Core Curriculum Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available in the Administration Office.

B. APPROVE MAXIMUM TRAVEL EXPENDITURE FOR 2017-2018

On motion of Mrs. DeVito and seconded by Ms. Dee the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to approve the maximum travel expenditure for the 2017 – 2018 school year for all staff and board members in the amount \$130,000.00 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b). The Robbinsville Board of Education also approves that an annual school year threshold of \$1,500.00 per staff member be established for regular business travel where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in the school year. Mr. Halm was absent.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mrs. DeVito and seconded by Ms. Dee, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted 7-0 to adjourn the March 13, 2017 meeting at 8:45 PM. Mr. Halm was absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Brooks
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary