



PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Carol Boyne, President

Mr. Matthew O’Grady, Vice President

Mrs. Shaina Ciaccio

Dr. Vincent J. Costanza

Mrs. Sharon DeVito

Mrs. Florence Gange

Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr.

Mr. Keith Kochberg

Mr. Matthew O’Grady

Mrs. Faith Silvestrov

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Steven J. Mayer

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kathleen A. Foster

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Robert DeVita

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA

March 6, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

President Carol Boyne called the March 6, 2014 meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education to order at 7:03 PM. She read the *Statement of Public Meetings* and led the flag salute.

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Boyne	Present	Mrs. DeVito	Present	Mr. Kochberg	Arrived 7:26PM
Mrs. Ciaccio	Present	Mrs. Gange	Present	Mr. O'Grady	Arrived 7:06PM
Dr. Costanza	Arrived 7:26	Mr. Halm	Present	Mrs. Silvestrov	Present

Mrs. Boyne announced an amendment to the agenda to include an additional Hearing of the Public to take place after the budget presentation.

III. 2014-2015 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Mayer provided a presentation detailing the 2014-2015 annual budget after which Board members engaged in discussion, asked questions and offered suggestions on the following topics.

Curriculum enhancement in 2014-2015

- Possible Math pilot based on K-5 audit and research compiled through joint study with University of Pennsylvania
- Technology – PLTW (6-8) / Looking to add Engineering by Design (4-5)
- Pre-Algebra / Algebra
- Science (K-8)
- English (3-4)
- U.S. History I & II
- French I
- Spanish II & III
- AP Computer Science / AP Art History – Realignment required by College Board
- AP Physics – Recommendation to divide into Physics I & II
- K-5 World Language program – Dismantled in 2010 due to severe budget cuts, the district is currently exploring ways to utilize current staff to integrate world language – particularly Spanish – into the curriculum. Board members suggested that two options might include exploring international grants and looking into sharing a World Language teacher with a neighboring district.

Current K-5 class size / 2 FTE

Costs associated with technology upgrade

Board members requested that the final budget presentation include:

- Tax impact of township pilot programs including an Amazon comparison
- Slide indicating that the district is funded \$6.3M below adequacy
- Slide to show district generated revenue and growth over time

IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. Kawan Rahim

Mr. Rahim asked if lower spending causes lower performance?

Dr. Mayer indicated that Robbinsville does very well with college acceptance. Students are accepted at many top tier institutions and SAT scores continue to climb (1610 district avg. vs. 1677 peer group avg.). A Board member stated that because, historically, Robbinsville has been underfunded, the district has learned to do more with less and has developed a far greater sense of fiscal efficiency than many other districts.

B. Abhijit Mandrekar

Mr. Mandrekar had questions and comments on the following matters.

- Physics
- Home values / Reassessment
- Tax stability
- Science Olympiad – Parent support vs. added district support
- Class size
- Facilities use revenue

C. Nushin Kanuni

Mrs. Kanuni stated that the town council recently discussed reassessing the town. She asked some related questions that Board members were unable to answer as the topics did not fall under Board authority. A Board member directed her to the town council and to the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the answers she was seeking.

V. APPROVE RESOLUTIONS

A. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET: ROBBINSVILLE SCHOOLS 2014-2015

On motion of Mr. O’Grady and seconded by Mr. Kochberg and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to adopt a tentative budget for the 2014-2015 school year as indicated in resolution V.A.

RESOLVED, that the Board adopt the following resolution to approve and submit the proposed 2014-2015 annual school budget. The Board also accepts the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2014-2015 State aid and authorizes the Administration to make minor adjustments in the budget required by the Executive Mercer County 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, 2014;

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 29, 2014 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 2014-2015 annual school budget and accept the New Jersey Department of Education notification of 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 using the 2014-2015 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	\$38,541,225	\$33,526,643
Special Revenue Fund	\$471,942	\$0
Debt Service Fund	\$5,765,632	\$5,269,628
Total Base Budget	\$44,778,799	\$38,796,302

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

The tentative budget general fund tax levy, as per N.J.S.A. 18A:75-38, includes a pre-budget year tax levy adjustment for weighted enrollment increases in the amount of \$20,976.

Included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal from Capital Reserve - Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects, is \$346,957 for the following other capital projects: \$346,957 to replace the carpet with VCT at the Pond Road Middle The total costs of these projects is \$346,957 which represent expenditures for construction projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Robbinsville High School, 155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road, New Jersey on April 29, 2014 at 7:00 for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2014-2015 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. BANKED CAP – AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT FOR HEALTH BENEFIT COST

On motion of Mr. Halm and seconded by Mr. O’Grady and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to approve a banked cap automatic adjustment for health benefit cost as indicated in resolution V.B.

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 18F-39(e) permits school districts to bank the difference between the maximum allowable tax levy CAP and the actual amount raised by taxation for use in any one of the three (3) succeeding budget years; and

WHEREAS the Robbinsville Board of Education qualifies for an automatic tax levy adjustment of \$135,740 for the increased cost in health benefits; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of the tax levy banked for future budget use is \$135,740.

C. WITHHOLD INCREMENT

On motion of Mr. O’Grady and seconded by Mrs. DeVito and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to withhold an increment as indicated in resolution V.C.

Motion to withhold the employment and adjustment increments of employee #4419, an employee whose full name is on file in the Office of the Board Secretary, for the 2014-2015 school year based upon teaching performance and unprofessional conduct.

VI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

A. Abhijit Mandrekar

Mr. Mandrekar suggested that reminders for the April 29, 2014 final budget adoption be sent out early in order to allow members of the public time to arrange their schedules.

B. Nushin Kanuni

Mrs. Kanuni stated that the budget hearing posed a conflict with parent teacher conferences. Board members agreed and noted that, based upon the timing of the release of state aid figures, the district has a limited window in which to hold the hearing.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. O'Grady and seconded by Mrs. Ciaccio and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to convene in executive session at 8:44 PM to discuss a litigation matter.

XV. RESUME PUBLIC SESSION

On motion of Mr. Halm and seconded by Mr. O'Grady and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education voted to resume public at 9:10 PM.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. O'Grady and seconded by Mr. Kochberg and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Robbinsville Board of Education adjourn the March 6, 2014 meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. DeVita
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary