

**ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 27, 2009**

**ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER**



PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Michael Reca, President
Mrs. Maxine Fox, Vice President
Mrs. Carol Boyne
Mrs. Sharon DeVito
Ms. Melissa Foy
Mr. Thomas Halm, Jr.
Mr. Matthew O'Grady
Mrs. Lainie Potter
Mrs. Faith Silvestrov

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. John J. Szabo

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kathie Foster

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Louise B. Davis

BOARD ATTORNEY

Matthew Giacobbe, Esq., Scarinci & Hollenbeck

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Kevin Stawicki

ROBBINSVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 27, 2009

7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING

ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Michael Reca, President, called the meeting to order at 7:33 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

Members Present

Michael Reca, President
Maxine Fox, Vice President
Carol Boyne
Sharon DeVito
Melissa Foy
Thomas Halm, Jr.
Matthew O'Grady
Lainie Potter
Faith Silvestrov

Others Present

Dr. John J. Szabo, Superintendent
Dr. Kathie Foster, Assistant Superintendent
Matthew Giocobbe, Esq., Board Attorney
Frances McKenna, Confidential Secretary (for Louise B. Davis, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary - ABSENT)

V. MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Fox, and seconded by Mr. Halm, and carried by a vote of 8-0 with Mrs. Foy abstaining, the Board voted to adopt the minutes of the following meetings:

- October 21, 2008 – Monthly Meeting - Public Session
- November 3, 2008 – Special Meeting – Public Session
- November 18, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Executive Session
- November 18, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Public Session
- December 16, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Executive Session
- December 16, 2008 – Monthly Meeting – Public Session

On motion of Mrs. Fox, and seconded by Mr. Halm, and carried by a vote of 7-0 with Mrs. Foy and Mrs. Silvestrov abstaining, the Board voted to adopt the minutes of the following meetings:

- December 1, 2008 – Special Meeting – Executive Session
- December 1, 2008 – Special Meeting – Public Session

VI. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT – NONE

VII. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – NONE

Dr. Szabo informed the Members of the Board and public that Ms. Davis had gone home sick and would not be participating in the meeting.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Monthly Student Enrollment Review
- RHS Seat Program (Initial Discussion – to be continued during the Facilities portion of the meeting) – Goals of the RHS Seat Program include generating a source of revenue as well as creating a sense of community pride. It will also provide donors a tax deduction.
- Pajama Channels Broadcast System (Initial Discussion – to be continued during the Facilities portion of the meeting)
- CNN to visit Sharon Elementary to feature Capri Sun Recycling Program on January 29, 2009.

IX. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT - NONE

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Sharon DeVito

Mrs. DeVito indicated that the latest meeting of the Community Relations Committee took place on January 6, 2009. She reported on the following:

- PTA “Did You Know?” flyer;
- Concern expressed over possible loss of playground at Sharon Elementary;

- Shared Functional Capacity Study – It was suggested that technology should be included in the study;
- PRIDE Grant;
- Voter awareness campaign;
- Kindergarten registration – 211 students projected for 2009-2010;
- Discussion centered upon the question of “What makes a great school?”;
- Community communication concern – An independent website is being considered;
- Next meeting of the Community Relations Committee – February 3, 2009

B. EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT & POLICY – Lainie Potter

Mrs. Potter indicated that the most recent meeting of the Education, Development & Policy Committee took place on January 13, 2009. The committee met with Sharon Moffett, Supervisor of Math and Science. Discussion took place regarding:

- Math Committee findings – Updates and timelines available;
- Parent resources to be posted to the web;
- Due to the Everyday Math controversy, the district may consider investing in other programs, seek feedback from teachers, examine fourth grade test results;
- New math program for 6th grade upcoming;
- Assistant Superintendent, Kathie Foster, indicated that there will be an increased focus on budget and spending;
- Test data will be available for the February 2009 BOE meeting;
- Prohibiting Pay to Play Policy is on the “R” drive for review – Committee found the most recent revisions satisfactory;
- Strauss Esmay visit on January 26, 2009 to learn more about policy.

C. PERSONNEL – Faith Silvestrov

Mrs. Silvestrov indicated the most recent meeting of the Personnel Committee took place on January 20, 2009. She reported on the following:

- Review of employment of staff (Mrs. Boyne complimented Ms. Davis on creating a comprehensive review of staffing needs.);
- Substitute appointments;
- Increased staffing needs for school year 2009-2010;
- Next meeting of the Personnel Committee will take place on February 17, 2009.

D. NEGOTIATIONS – Thomas Halm, Jr.

Mr. Halm indicated that the Negotiations Committee met with Dr. Szabo, Ms. Davis, and Board Attorney Matt Giacobbe to review changes in the contract involving specific language revisions and the salary guides. The contract has been forwarded to the Association for review.

E. FINANCE, FACILITIES, & TRANSPORTATION – Matthew O’Grady

Mr. O’Grady indicated that the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee met on January 22, 2009. He reported on the following Facilities matters:

- Upon review of the Inter-local Agreement between the district and the municipality, the committee decided that the district would benefit more from engaging in a formal bidding process for services rather than renewing the Inter-local Agreement;
- RHS sign completion by February 23, 2009;
- A preliminary quote for roof projects has been obtained. The district may qualify for Shovel Ready money with Mercer County Shared Services Initiatives;
- Sharon and Pond space needs – Contracts for modular units are under review.

Mr. O’Grady discussed the following items related to Finance:

- With budget season pending, the aim in building this year’s budget is a “zero-based” budget or better. A timeline will be forthcoming.
- The health benefits transition has been difficult. Employees are awaiting new ID cards. Dr. Szabo indicated that the new replacement cards would be included in the January 30, 2009 paychecks.
- Cataloguing Capital Improvements Project
- Review of Student Activities Fees

XI. HEARING OF PUBLIC

A. Nancy Lewen

Mrs. Lewen expressed interest in the findings of the Math Committee. She presented information on the New Jersey Coalition for World Class Math, a coalition whose aim involves looking at standards with rigorous content as well as implementation of an independent testing program. Mrs. Lewen indicated that the Coalition met with Commissioner of Education, Lucille Davy, prior to a meeting of the State Board of Education. She urged the Robbinsville Board of Education to work toward improving district standards rather than continuing the band-aid approach of Everyday Math.

Mrs. Lewen made an inquiry regarding the district's 501-C3 status and indicated that she has tried to enroll in her company’s matching donation program but has been unsuccessful. Company officials have informed her that the district does not have 501-C3 status. Mr. O’Grady indicated that he would check with Ms. Davis on this matter.

B. Joe Armenti

Mr. Armenti requested a correction in the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. O’Grady indicated that a motion for the revision would be made under New Business.

C. Rich Kasper

Mr. Kasper questioned the Everyday Math program. In addition, he indicated that he has been trying to donate a sum of \$750.00 to the PTA but has been unable to get approval for this donation from the PTA.

With regard to field trips, Mr. Kasper questioned whether the phrase “No Cost to District” was accurate. A determination was made that clarification, such as “No Admission Cost” should be considered in the future. Mrs. Potter indicated that she would address this issue with the Education, Development & Policy Committee.

Mr. Kasper also inquired about the transportation bid process. He indicated that bids gauged on a “per diem” basis may not provide an accurate way to determine the lowest bidder.

D. Debbie Baier

Mrs. Baier asked for an explanation of the process involved with file a complaint about a contracted bus driver. Dr. Szabo indicated that she should send her complaint to the Transportation Coordinator and forward a copy to the Board of Education.

Mrs. Baier also questioned the status of the Superintendent Search. Board President, Mike Recca, explained the current timeline and process. Dr. Szabo indicated that he will remain in the district until the new Superintendent is released from his / her district.

E. Joe Armenti

When addressing upcoming budget issues, Mr. Armenti asked that the district not use “scare tactics” regarding population growth. He also requested a review of the policy related to budget preparation and stressed that every member of the Board should review the budget.

F. Walter Dumbrowski

When Mr. Dumbrowski asked for an explanation on the Teachers as Writers program, Dr. Foster provided additional detail on the program. Mr. Dumbrowski suggested that the district create a survey to be administered to each graduating class related to their educational experience in Robbinsville.

G. John Ruch

Mr. Ruch questioned the status of the Functional Capacity Study. Mr. O’Grady noted that the district hopes to have additional information within the near future.

Mr. Ruch asked for clarification on the Teacher’s Contract. Board Attorney, Matthew Giacobbe indicated that there is a complete agreement among all parties. Currently, the salary guides are being costed out. Health benefits have been implemented providing immediate savings to the district. Additional discussion ensued.

H. Mike Caputo

Mr. Caputo expressed concern about the playground situation at Sharon Elementary and shared his hope that a new playground will trump the need for new lights at the football field.

Mr. Caputo also questioned the status of the signage proposal. Board Attorney, Matt Giacobbe, indicated that there was one responder at the bid opening which took place earlier in the day and that he would review the proposal for compliance.

Additionally, Mr. Caputo re-visited the topic of negotiations, specifically the percentage of pay increase for district staff. Mr. Giacobbe pointed out that given the confines of the law – to which the Board is bound – he would advise concerned individuals to contact their legislators to request a change in the PERK laws as they relate to binding arbitration. Mrs. DeVito reminded participants that the district pay scale is considerably lower than surrounding districts and stressed the importance of becoming competitive.

I. Walt Dumbrowski

With regard to the upcoming budget, Mr. Dumbrowski asked what this year's budget process would involve. Dr. Szabo explained that each Principal will prioritize their school's needs, after which discussions will take place on the nature of, and reason for, each priority. Following this, Dr. Szabo will review the budget submitted by each Principal then present the information to the entire Board for comment and deliberation.

Mr. Dumbrowski stressed the importance of being mindful of the difference between needs and wants.

J. Joe Armenti

Mr. Armenti urged the Board to follow policy. He took issue with the terms of the Teacher's Contract. Mrs. Boyne pointed out that he signed the Memorandum of Agreement when he was a Board Member.

K. JoAnne Laskey

Mrs. Laskey expressed concern with the core facilities at Sharon, particularly with the lack of recess space, and asked for clarification of the Board's intent on this issue. Mr. O'Grady stressed that the Board's ultimate aim is the provision of a quality education in a safe environment. He noted that the Board intends to use the information from the Speizle study to make sound big picture decisions going forward.

L. Bob Bhurda

Mr. Bhurda asked how the district trains new teachers regarding matters of protocol, etc. Dr. Szabo explained that at the beginning of each new school year teachers attend an orientation session during which they learn about the importance of high standards and high expectations for educators.

M. Rich Kasper

Mr. Kasper asked for additional clarification on the budget. Matt Giacobbe pointed out that the budget is still at committee level and that the state has not yet released the software necessary for completion. Dr. Szabo indicated that this

year the Executive County Superintendent has the power to use a line item veto which could affect state aide.

Mr. Kasper asked if performance bonds were required for the field project. Board Attorney, Matt Giacobbe, noted that surety bonds are required.

XII. RESOLUTIONS BEING PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL

On motion of Mrs. Silvestrov, and seconded by Mrs. Boyne, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (A1a,b; A2a-c; A3a,b; A4a,b)

A. PERSONNEL – Faith Silvestrov

BE IT RESOLVED by the Robbinsville Board of Education that the following **PERSONNEL** resolutions, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

1. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF – Robbinsville High School – 2008-2009

a. Health / PE Teacher – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Taralynn Cumberland as a Health and Physical Education teacher at Robbinsville High School at the annual pro-rated salary of \$51,695 (MA+15 / Step 4) effective February 2, 2009. Ms. Cumberland replaces Lindsay Nami. (See Attachment)

b. Maternity Leave Replacement – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve C. Grace Jou as a maternity leave replacement for Yasemen Kinak, teacher of Math at Robbinsville High School, effective February 17, 2009 – May 1, 2009. Ms. Jou will be compensated at a rate of \$50,563 (Masters / Step 4 - Pro-rated) (See Attachment).

2. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF – Pond Road Middle School – 2008-2009

a. Maternity Leave Extension – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a request for Karen DeRossett, Health and PE teacher at Pond Road Middle School, to extend her maternity leave through April 28, 2009. The Board approved Mrs. DeRossett's original request to return to work on April 1, 2009 at the December 16, 2008 meeting. Upon approval of this request, Mrs. DeRossett will return to work on April 29, 2009.

b. Tenure Track Position Change – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a tenure track position change for

Heather Oschner, a maternity leave substitute for Samantha Merlino, Special Education teacher at Pond Road Middle School. Upon Mrs. Merlino's resignation, Ms. Oschner has been selected to fill the vacant position at an annual pro-rated salary of \$44,070.00 (Step 1 / BA) effective January 5, 2009 (See Attachment).

c. Lunch Aide(s) – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals for the positions of Lunch Aide at Pond Road Middle School, at the hourly rate of \$13.43.

Ellen Gallagher
Karen Tuffy

3. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF – Sharon School – 2008-2009

a. Part-time One-on-one Special Education Aide – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the hiring of Christine McCahery as a one-on-one part time aide position at Sharon School effective January 28, 2009 at the annual rate of \$10,352.50 (See Attachment).

b. Resignation – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Lisa Focarelli, a one on one part time aide at Sharon School, effective January 9, 2009. We wish Mrs. Focarelli the best of luck with her future endeavors.

4. EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF – Other Matters – 2008-2009

a. Substitute Teacher(s) – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following substitute teacher(s) for the 2008-2009 school year as indicated:

Certified
(\$80/diem)

Jean Marie Alban
David Cullen
Kimberly Cushman
Christine DeLena
Margie Giginis
Mary Lou Harmon
Jennifer Hellman
Stacey MacDougall
Christine Nicolosi
Theresa Oliva
Jill Quiles

Non-certified
(\$75/diem)

Gordon Asmuth
Lisa Brody-Daly
Vincent Carabin
Tina Cobb
Colleen Dowgin
Toni Kowalski
Patrick Lynch
Christina Pickwicz
Luxami Rajput
Anthony Venanzi
Courtney Stevens

b. Homebound Instructor – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Janet Haigh as a homebound instructor for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year. Ms. Haigh will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$34.00.

On motion of Mrs. Silvestrov, and seconded by Mr. O’Grady, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (A5a-e; A6a,b)

5. EXTRA WORK / EXTRA PAY

a. Robotics Club – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals to serve as adult advisors, mentors, and volunteers for the district’s first Robotics Club:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position / Status</u>
Joy Wolfe	Teacher - RHS
Rich Casserly	Pending Background Check
David Johnston	Pending Background Check
Kathy Koss	Instructional Aide – Sharon Elementary
Scott Meredith	Pending Background Check
Mike Normandin	Pending Background Check
Ric Principato	Fingerprinted – Background Check Complete
Carolyn Rutsky	Pending Background Check
Ron Sadley	Former Employee – Fingerprinted for BOE
Barry Wham	Pending Background Check
Scott Whitlock	Fingerprinted 2005 – Softball Coach
Tara Whitlock	Secretary – Sharon Elementary
Peter Wolfe	Pending Background Check
Jan Zaffos	Approved Substitute

b. Teachers as Writers Group – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals to take part in a “Teachers as Writers” group at the rate of \$34.00 per hour and not to exceed 10 hours:

Linda Biondi	Rose McGlew
Helen Chiappetta	Heather Ochsner
Carol Hotchkiss	Dana Pontani
Elissa Horan	Tom Snyder
Patty Irilli	

c. Coaching – 2009 Freshman Wrestling Team

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Darren Schulman as the 2009 Freshman Wrestling Coach. Pending certification, Mr. Schulman will receive a stipend in the amount of \$4,915.00.

d. Co-curricular Salaries – Pond Road Middle School 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals for the following co-curricular positions at Pond Road Middle School for school year 2008-2009:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Mary Carpenter	Homework Club	\$2,520
Renee Mering	Homework Club	\$2,520
Dana Pontani	Homework Club	\$2,520
Mike Schmidt	.5 Assistant Drama – Step 2	\$1,505
Stephanie Venanzi	.5 Assistant Drama – Step 1	\$1,452

e. Correction – Co-curricular Salaries – Pond Road Middle School 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following changes in stipend positions originally approved at the August 26, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position / Step</u>	<u>Approved 8/26/08</u>	<u>Corrected Amt.</u>
Kim Keener	.5 Asst. Drama Director / 3	\$2,300	\$1,610
Jennie Liechner	Set Design / 2	\$2,300	\$1,505

6. ADVANCED PLACEMENT ON THE SALARY GUIDE

a. Advancement on the Salary Guide – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve request of the following individual(s) for advanced placement on the salary guide (See Attachment):

<u>Name</u>	<u>From /Step</u>	<u>To /Step</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Shayna Berliner	BA / 3	BA+15 / 3	1/28/09
Cathy Branchek	BA+15 / 1	BA+30 / 1	1/28/09
Blake P. Kilgore	BA+30 / 6	MA / 6	9/1/08
Melissa Thomas	BA+30 /	MA	1/28/09

b. Step / Salary Correction – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following correction for Frank Airo, Teacher of Italian at Pond Road Middle School:

<u>Current Step & Salary</u>	<u>Corrected Step & Salary</u>
Step 9 Doctorate / \$60,079	Step 11 MA / \$60,162

Mr. Airo received his doctorate from the University of Palermo, however, an independent review of his course work indicates that it is equivalent to a U.S. Master of Arts degree.

On motion of Mrs. Potter, and seconded by Mrs. Foy, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (B1a; B2a,b; B3a-d; B4a-d)

B. EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, & POLICY - Lainie Potter

BE IT RESOLVED by the Robbinsville Board of Education that the following **EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT, & POLICY** resolutions, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

1. CURRICULUM / PROGRAM & POLICY

a. Policy – Second Reading & Adoption

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, review the following policy as a Second Reading followed by adoption.

P6360 – Banning Pay to Play – New (See Attachment)

2. DONATIONS

a. Bristol-Myers Squibb – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept a donation in the amount of \$120.00 from Bristol-Myers Squibb. This donation, designated for Art Education, is the result of a contribution to the Employee Political Action Committee made by Shawn Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman is the father of Alexandria (Grade 6) and Samantha (Grade 4). We extend our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Zimmerman and to Bristol-Myers Squibb.

b. Anonymous Donation – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept a donation in the amount of \$3,500.00. This donation, designated for General Operating Support, is the result of a contribution from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. We extend our thanks and appreciation for this generous donation.

3. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

a. Professional Development Plan – 2009-2010

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Robbinsville Public Schools Professional Development Plan for the 2009-2010 school year. (See Attachment)

b. University of Pennsylvania Science Teacher Academy

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, grant approval for Robbinsville Public Schools to apply to become a Core Partner with the University of Pennsylvania Science Teacher Institute Academy. There will be no cost to the

district other than the commitment of time for an administrator to attend six days of summer training. This commitment will lead to the opportunity for middle and secondary school science teachers to participate in a degree program paid for through scholarships and stipends.

c. Thesis Research – PRMS – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kimberly Keener's thesis research investigation for a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree – Elementary Education at New Jersey City University (See Attachment).

d. Workshops – Robbinsville Public Schools – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the teachers / administrators listed for upcoming professional development workshops scheduled to take place during the 2008-2009 school year. (See Attachment)

4. DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

a. Tuition Contract with Rutgers Douglas Outreach – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a tuition contract with Rutgers Douglass Outreach for court ordered services for student # 08-19R in the amount of \$730.00 per week for the remainder of the school year.

b. Collaborative Service Agreement with Middlesex Regional Education Services – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a Collaborative Service Agreement Contract with Middlesex Regional Education Services to provide itinerant / teacher of the deaf services from Katzenbach to a student at Sharon Elementary School for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year on an as-needed basis at the rate of \$118.00 per hour.

c. Tuition Contract with Middlesex County Educational Services Commission – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a tuition contract with Middlesex County Educational Services Commission (Academy Learning Center) for Student #08-32RE in the amount of \$33,840.00.

d. Resolution – Waiver of Requirements – Special Education Medicaid Initiative Initiative (SEMI) Program – 2009-2010

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's

participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2009-2010, and;

Whereas, the Robbinsville Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 30 Medicaid eligible classified students.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Robbinsville Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Mercer an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Date: January 27, 2009

Adopted: January 27, 2009

On motion of Mrs. Potter, and seconded by Mrs. Foy, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (5a-c)

5. FIELD TRIPS

a. Field Trips – Robbinsville High School – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips for Robbinsville High School for the 2008-2009 school year:

i. State of the County Address - Trenton, NJ

Date:	January 22, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating:	7
Teacher Chaperones:	1
Number of other Chaperones:	0
Approximate Cost per Pupil:	\$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave:	10:45 AM
Time Scheduled to Return:	12:00 PM

(No cost to district)

ii. New Jersey State House – Trenton, NJ

Date:	February 3, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating:	20
Teacher Chaperones:	1
Number of other Chaperones:	0
Approximate Cost per Pupil:	\$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave:	7:45 AM
Time Scheduled to Return:	3:00 PM

(No cost to district)

iii. Bodies: The Exhibition – New York, NY

Date: February 13, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 65
Teacher Chaperones: 2
Number of other Chaperones: 5
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$30.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 7:40 AM
Time Scheduled to Return: 2:30 PM
(No cost to district)

iv. High Tech High School – Lindcroft, NJ

Date: February 19, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 5
Teacher Chaperones: 1
Number of other Chaperones: 0
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 7:30AM
Time Scheduled to Return: 2:00 PM
(No cost to district)

v. Robbinsville Airport – Robbinsville, NJ

Date: March 9, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 12
Teacher Chaperones: 1
Number of other Chaperones: 0
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 9:30 AM
Time Scheduled to Return: 3:00 PM
(No cost to district)

vi. New Jersey State Theatre – New Brunswick, NJ

Date: March 23, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 50
Teacher Chaperones: 3 + School Nurse
Number of other Chaperones: 0
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$45.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 9:00 AM
Time Scheduled to Return: 2:30 PM
(No cost to district)

vii. Barnes & Noble Booksellers (Preschool) – Hamilton, NJ

Date: February 6, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 19
Teacher Chaperones: 2
Number of other Chaperones: 3
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 12:15 PM
Time Scheduled to Return: 2:15 PM
(No cost to district)

b. Field Trips – Pond Road Middle School

i. Ellis Island – Ellis Island, New York

Dates: May 26, 27, 28, 2009
June 2, 4, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 225
Teacher Chaperones: 15
Number of other Chaperones: 20
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$25.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 8:30 AM
Time Scheduled to Return: 5:30 PM
(No cost to district)

c. Field Trips – Sharon Elementary School – 2008-2009

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following field trips for Sharon Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year:

i. Hamilton Dentist – Hamilton, NJ

Date: February 23, 2009
Number of Pupils Participating: 19
Teacher Chaperones: 5
Number of other Chaperones: 0
Approximate Cost per Pupil: \$0.00
Time Scheduled to Leave: 1:00 PM
Time Scheduled to Return: 2:30 PM
(No cost to district)

On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mr. Halm, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (C1a-c)

C. FACILITIES, FINANCE & TRANSPORTATION – Matthew O’Grady

BE IT RESOLVED by the Robbinsville Board of Education that the following **FACILITIES, FINANCE & TRANSPORTATION** resolutions, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved as indicated:

1. FINANCE

a. Bills and Claims List (See Attachment)

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve payment of the Bills & Claims Lists for January 2009:

January Bill List: \$ 940,449.77
Total: \$ 940,449.77

b. Transfers

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the January 2009 transfer listed below:

<u>From</u>	<u>Acct. Name</u>	<u>Amt. of Transfer</u>
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11-00-291-270-07-01	Hospitalization	\$43,000.00
11-000-216-100-01-01	Speech Salaries	<u>\$35,000.00</u>

Total		\$78,000.00
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<u>To</u>	<u>Acct. Name</u>	<u>Amt. of Transfer</u>
11-000-230-890-07-01	Misc. Conference/Dues (Hazard & Young)	\$15,000.00
11-000-251-320-07-01	Business Office Prof. Services	\$20,000.00
11-000-251-500-07-01	Advertising	\$ 8,000.00
11-000-216-320-04-01	Speech Contracted Services	<u>\$35,000.00</u>

Total		\$78,000.00
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c. Certification of Board Secretary

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)3 I, Louise B. Davis, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, certify that as of December 2008, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23-22.12(a).

On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mr. Halm, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (C2a; C2c)

2. FACILITIES

a. Capital Improvements Proposal – Creative & Performing Arts “Seat” Program

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, agree that the Creative & Performing Arts “Seat” Program fall under the auspices of the Robbinsville Board of Education following the attached guidelines. (See Attachment)

On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, the Board voted to table the following item and may amend subject to attorney review: (C2b)

b. Pajama Channels Broadcast Service - TABLED

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, authorize Pajama Channels Broadcast Service to install a video camera system to video-stream athletic events that are held in the RHS gymnasium. There is no cost to the district. (See Attachment)

c. Building Use

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve and ratify the Buildings and Grounds Use of Facilities Schedule for the months of January and February 2009. (See Attachment)

On motion of Mr. O’Grady, and seconded by Mr. Halm, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adopted the following: (C3a-d)

3. TRANSPORTATION

a. Transportation Jointures

i. LARK

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept Joint Transportation Agreement with Hamilton Township Board of Education Transportation for route LARK, Rick Bus Co., in the amount of \$578.50 (\$318.50 route cost + \$260.00 mileage) for the transportation of one Robbinsville student one way home from the WWP-North HS on Tuesday’s only effective October 21, 2008 and ending on May 9, 2009.

ii. East Windsor Board of Education

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept Joint Transportation Agreement with East Windsor Board of Education Transportation for per diem athletic trips from the Robbinsville High School and Pond Road Middle School going to various destinations at the cost of \$50.00 per hour on an as needed basis from December 16, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

b. Transportation Renewal Revision - Transportation Bid #T08-01

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept Transportation Renewal Revisions as follows for the term 9/1/08-6/30/09.

Routes Awarded to **George Dapper Inc.**

Tier #	Route	Original Per Diem Cost 2007-2008	Year 1 renewal increase 2008-2009	Year 1 Renewal Total Per Diem Cost 2008-2009
Tier	RHS-12	\$89.93	2.89% \$2.60	\$92.53
L	MID-12	\$89.93	2.89% \$2.60	\$92.53
	ELM-12	\$89.93	2.89% \$2.60	\$92.53

c. Transportation Bid Results – Bid # T09-03

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept Transportation Bid #T09-03 and recognize George Dapper Bus Company as the apparent low bidder at \$87.07 per diem for the term 9/1/08-6/30/09 prorated from 1/26/09. A summary of the bids by bidder are as follows:

<u>By Company</u>	<u>Per Diem Cost</u>	<u>Mileage +/-</u>
Eagle-Wolfington	\$118.50	\$1.08
<i>George Dapper Inc</i>	<i>\$87.07</i>	<i>\$2.50</i>
Irvin Raphael	\$199.00	\$1.95

d. Transportation Quote - SCHS

That the Robbinsville Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, accept Transportation Quote SCHS and recognize George Dapper Inc. as the apparent low quote at \$88.27 per diem for the period of Monday March 2, 2009 until further notice. A summary of the quotes by bidder are as follows:

<u>By Company</u>	<u>Per Diem Cost</u>	<u>Mileage +/-</u>
Dapper Bus Co.	\$88.27	\$2.50
Delaware Valley Bus Line	no quote	---
First Student	\$129.00	\$2.00
GST Inc.	no quote	---
Rick Bus Co.	\$92.00	\$2.50

XIII. HEARING OF PUBLIC

A. John Ruch

Mr. Ruch expressed concern regarding the Pajama Broadcast Channels and cited security concerns and additional cost factors. He urged the Board to take time for a full review of the program before taking any action.

B. JoAnne Laskey

Mrs. Laskey recommended further discussion before committing to the Pajama Broadcast Channels and asked about the possibility of the district receiving a share of the membership fees.

Mr. O'Grady assured participants that the Board would move with great caution as it focuses on the ultimate goal of protecting students and the Board.

C. Debbie Baier

Mrs. Baier questioned the zero budget and received an explanation that zero based is different than zero increase budget. She was relieved to hear that as she is very concerned about our ability to effectively deliver the educational programs with no increase. Mr. Bhurda echoed her concern.

D. Joe Armenti

Mr. Armenti reminded the Board to adhere to policy.

E. Bob Bhurda

Noting the vertical articulation that occurs between the middle school and high school, Mr. Bhurda encouraged the same type of articulation with St. Gregory's Catholic School for students entering Robbinsville High School.

F. Rich Kasper

In light of Pajama Broadcast Channels interest in doing business with the district, Mr. Kasper asked if the district has a TV Production class. Dr. Foster indicated that cost factors prohibit such a class at this time.

G. Mike Caputo

Mr. Caputo asked for additional clarification on the Pajama Broadcast Channels.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

XV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Video-streaming Equipment

Mrs. DeVito reported on the receipt of funds for video streaming equipment to be used in five classrooms at Sharon Elementary School and five classrooms at Pond Road Middle School.

B. Dinner Dance

In addition, Mrs. DeVito shared information about an upcoming dinner dance sponsored by the Robbinsville Education Foundation in association with Partners in Excellence scheduled to take place on March 13, 2009.

C. Amendment of September 23, 2008 Minutes

On motion of Mr. Halm, and seconded by Mrs. Potter, and carried by a vote of 8-0, with Mrs. Foy abstaining, the Board voted to amend the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education. These minutes will be presented for re-adoption at the February 24, 2009 meeting.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Reca, and seconded by Mrs. DeVito, and carried by a vote of 9-0, the Board adjourned the January 27, 2009 meeting of the Robbinsville Board of Education at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

**Fran McKenna for Louise B. Davis
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary**