

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROXBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AND THE ROXBURY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010  
Roxbury High School, 1 Bryant Drive, Succasunna, NJ 07876**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Roxbury High School, President Moschella presiding.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs. Miller announced that this Special Meeting of the Roxbury Township Board of Education is being held to take action and hold discussion on business before the Board tonight, and that the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Roxbury Township Board of Education has caused written notice of tonight's meeting and copies of the agenda for tonight's meeting to be transmitted to:

Roxbury Register	-	Newspaper
Daily Record	-	Newspaper
Roxbury Municipal Clerk		
Roxbury Public Library		
Roxbury Website	-	<a href="http://www.roxbury.org/boe/meetings-minutes.htm">http://www.roxbury.org/boe/meetings-minutes.htm</a>

The notice of tonight's meeting and a copy of tonight's agenda have been posted in the Board's Business Office.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was taken, and a quorum deemed present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Maureen Castriotta, Mrs. Liz D'Abbraccio, Mrs. Terry D'Agostino, Mrs. Jennifer Marchesi, Mrs. Patricia Miller, Mr. Chris Rogers, Ms. Carol Scheneck (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Mr. Greg Somjen, Mr. John Moschella

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Annette Brooks

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Michael Rossi, Dr. James Heinegg, Dr. Gregory McGann, Mr. Anthony Mistretta, Mr. Paul Stabile

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Nathanya Simon (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), SSEC&Z, LLC.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Whereas Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in Executive Session under certain limited circumstances; and

Whereas said law requires the Board of Education to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an Executive or Private Session,

Now, therefore, it was motioned by Mrs. D'Abbraccio and seconded by Mrs. Marchesi that the Roxbury Township Board of Education does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel, student matters, defeated budget, and matters covered by attorney client privilege.

May 17, 2010

The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required, and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only in a public meeting.

- Recess
- Reconvene - The meeting was reconvened in Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. in the Media Center at Roxbury High School.

It was motioned by Mrs. Castriotta and seconded by Mrs. D'Agostino to return to Public Session at this time, 7:24 p.m.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

- Recess
- Reconvene - The meeting was reconvened in Public Session at 7:35 p.m. in the Auditorium at Roxbury High School.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members of the Board, the Administration, the Council, and the Public participated in the salute to the flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll was taken, and a quorum deemed present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Maureen Castriotta, Mrs. Liz D'Abbraccio,  
Mrs. Terry D'Agostino, Mrs. Jennifer Marchesi, Mrs. Patricia Miller,  
Mr. Chris Rogers, Ms. Carol Scheneck, Mr. Greg Somjen,  
Mr. John Moschella

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Annette Brooks

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Michael Rossi, Dr. James Heinegg, Dr. Gregory McGann,  
Mr. Anthony Mistretta, Mr. Paul Stabile

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Nathanya Simon, SSEC&Z, LLC.

Board President, Mr. Moschella, announced that a resolution regarding a time change for the Board of Education meeting scheduled for May 24, 2010 would be presented at the conclusion of the Council's portion of tonight's meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Jim Riley outlined the procedures for this joint meeting.

Ms. Judith Tutela of Carr, Daley, Sullivan & Weir, PC, the appointed auditor for the Township Council, gave a report regarding where reductions should be considered in the amount of \$1,213,500, and possible additional reductions in the amount of \$350,000.

Mr. Ronald DeFilippis introduced the Independent Review Committee members and their relation to Roxbury. He then gave an overview of what the committee had analyzed during their review of the school budget, discussed their findings, and indicated reductions in the amount of \$1,768,200.

May 17, 2010

Ms. Tutela gave a comparison between both reports as to where to make reductions to the 2010/2011 school budget.

Mr. Mistretta, Interim School Business Administrator, gave an update from where the Board has come from in this review process.

Mayor Riley addressed the audience and reminded them about repetition, and opened the floor for public comments. The following members of the public commented:

Susan Feeney, alumni, resident, and teacher, commented about the elimination of kindergarten, and music.

Joe Perfetti, worked 44 years for Roxbury, is not in favor of privatization, the committee doesn't understand the process.

Ralph Nappi, Landing resident, asked Mr. Mistretta to introduce himself and commented about the analyzes by the auditor and committee, stating that there are too many administrators.

Jeff Moeller, Succasunna resident, thanked everyone for volunteering their time, and asked if there was a teacher representative present. There was. He stated that we need to fix a model that is broken; why can't something be done with the teacher contract now? If something isn't done, he will not be able to support the budget.

Virginia Mushinski, Roxbury resident, stated that "We blew it. We had a chance to change it". Need to be responsible.

Nicholas Savino, Landing resident and freshman, commented about the budget and how it should be more concise and clear.

Fran Day, Landing resident, thanked the volunteer auditors for their time, asked about health care cost, stating she believes the administrators and food service employees pay for benefits. What is the amount paid for those who declined benefits? Are we keeping kindergarten, the Assistant Superintendent position? Need to keep classroom intact.

Nancy Gage, Roxbury resident, mentioned that the proposed cuts from the Board dealt with instruction, is this going to happen. The Superintendent responded that they will be reviewed by the next board meeting. She asked about concessions from the REA. The Superintendent responded. Mayor Riley read a letter he sent to the REA.

Al Rispoli, Roxbury resident, read a letter regarding unfortunate family experience within the district and wondered how much the children will suffer in the future.

Dennis Wine, Succasunna resident, commented on what was mentioned from the review committee and the auditor, asked if possibility of no tax increase.

Ann Mauro, Succasunna resident, mentioned a letter written to the Board speaking about privatization, what is being done, and she commented about a wage freeze for teachers.

Craig Pedersen, Succasunna resident, stated he has children in the system, and will be here for a long time, wants a better detail of the budget and teacher contract.

Ryan Woods, Succasunna resident and junior, said that the budgets are defeated.

Anthony Petridis, Landing resident, asked what amount the district would receive from Federal grants. Asked what was given back by the administration. The Superintendent said all administration took a wage freeze.

May 17, 2010

Barbara Kinback, Landing resident, asked if the superintendent is taking a freeze or is it rolling over. The Superintendent stated that his salary is staying flat.

Junior at Roxbury High School commented in favor of keeping teachers.

Chris Laureys, Flanders resident, commented on how the district is being run, and what needs to be done, especially the REA.

John Vaccaro, Landing resident, commented about the tax structure and what it is costing us, approximately \$2.50 a week.

Dr. Rossi, Superintendent, addressed some of the issues that were asked. He thanked the committee and the auditor and commented on their findings. He will do what he can to protect the integrity of the district and respond to the needs of the students of Roxbury. He respects the time the individuals took to review the budget.

Mayor Riley asked the Council to review and opened for discussion the auditors report, page 2 of 3. Discussion of individual line items except fund balance took place. The auditor responded. Further discussion was to set other tuition as well.

Mayor Riley asked Mr. DeFillippis to review his committee's recommendations, page 10 of the report. First item was transportation. Council members asked questions and asked for comment from the Board. The also questioned why there is such a difference between both reports. Discussion on transportation continued; Council agreed to cut \$200,000 and restore \$70,000 in tuition. Discussion by the Council on other purchased services took place. The Superintendent responded.

Mr. Mistretta stated that \$200,000 was already cut in transportation.

Discussion on communication took place. Reduction of Assistant Principal at the high school and an administrator took place. Agreed to reduce fund balance by \$500,000.

Council agreed to reduce the school budget by \$1,300,500.

Mr. Moschella, Board President, commented on the recommendations and stated the Board of Education will be meeting on May 24, 2010, at which time the Board will accept some, but not all, of the Council's recommendations.

Mr. Rogers thanked the Council, professionals and residents. He made a statement that the blame is on the School Board not the residents; don't blame the REA, blame the School Board.

Ms. Scheneck stated she is disappointed in cuts by the Council and discrepancies in the two reports. She thanked those council members that did not want to cut the fund balance and commented on the cuts.

Mrs. Castriotta thanked the Council; they made a good decision and thanked those individuals on the committee. She asked the committee if the County Office saw their report. It was stated that the Commissioner of Education and former U.S. Senator, Mr. Dick Zimmer, saw the report.

Members of the Town Council made comments on the process and hoped that the Board will take these cuts serious and thanked the committee and auditor for their work.

May 17, 2010

Town Council Resolution 10-134 was read to reflect \$800,500 in various line items and \$500,000 in fund balance.

Total:	\$49,253,732
Tax Levy:	\$47,061,915
Debt Service:	2,191,817

The resolution passed with a vote of four (4) in favor; three (3) opposed.

Board of Education Resolution 502-10 was read.

**Ms. Scheneck motioned, and Mrs. D'Abbraccio seconded the motion that Resolution 502-10 be accepted as read.**

**The motion was approved by roll call vote.**

**Mrs. Castriotta: Abstain; Mrs. D'Abbraccio: Yes; Mrs. D'Agostino: Yes; Mrs. Marchesi: Yes; Mrs. Miller: Yes; Mr. Rogers: Yes; Ms. Scheneck: Yes; Mr. Somjen: Yes; Mr. Moschella: Yes.**

**RESOLUTION 502-10**

**Approval of Board of Education meeting Time**

IT IS RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Superintendent's recommendation, the Roxbury Township Board of Education will meet in Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2010. The Board will conduct a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Lincoln/Roosevelt School, 34 North Hillside Avenue, Succasunna, NJ.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was motioned by Mrs. D'Agostino and seconded by Mrs. D'Abbraccio to adjourn the meeting at this time, 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Paul Stabile  
Assistant Board Secretary