

RED BANK BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RED BANK, NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2010

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 p.m. – Middle School Media Center

2. SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised as directed by resolution adopted April 28, 2009. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Asbury Park Press*, *The Hub*, and the *Two River Times* newspapers per code and sent to the Municipal Clerk, Red Bank Borough, within 7 days per code.

Fire exits located in the direction indicated. In case of fire, you will be signaled by bell and/or public address system. If so alerted to fire, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest smoke-free exit.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Grace Costa, Ben Forest (arrived 7:10 pm), Janet Jones, Marjorie Lowe, Carrie Ludwikowski, Layli Whyte, Ann Roseman, Peter Noble

Absent: Rosemarie Kopka

Also present: Laura C. Morana, Superintendent

4. FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Noble led the Pledge to the Flag.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:07 pm Ms. Roseman motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to move the Executive Session to the end of the meeting.

A. Negotiations Update

6. HEARING OF PUBLIC - NONE

Bylaw #060 reads . . . “Any individual deciding to speak shall sign the speaker’s sheet before the business of the meeting has begun. Please include your name, address and group or organization you represent. All comments will be directed to the Chair. Speakers shall be limited to one (1) turn of five (5) minutes.”

7. STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Often times it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting the administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools. If the Superintendent of Schools is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate committee. The members of the board committee work with Administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. When the committee is satisfied with the matter, it is presented to the Board of Education for discussion before any final action is taken. Only then is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

9. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A. Prospective Board Member Information Session Planning

Ms. Darrow discussed the possibility of having a Board candidate information session for citizens to have an informal conversation with Board members about what is involved in serving on the Board of Education. Red Bank Regional High School had a similar session and felt it was helpful. There was a suggestion to have this session as part of a scheduled Board meeting and to advertise this through the district website, marquee, and community members.



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As per NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement. The 2010-11 tentative budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$150,000. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

- Dr. Morana explained that although the board adopted a preliminary budget on February 23, 2010, the budget had changed. In order to advertise as required, the Board needs to adopt this revised budget. This budget reflects a two percent increase in the tax levy, as opposed to the four percent that was originally proposed on February 23. Dr. Morana reiterated that this is a preliminary budget and cannot be finalized until the district receives their state aid figures, expected by Thursday.
- There was a discussion on the highlights of Governor Christie's budget address and the potential impact for Red Bank. One Board member indicated that she would not vote for this budget because she did not receive an increase in social security.
- A Board member expressed that he was unhappy with the cuts; and although he does not like having to vote on this budget, he realizes that this is an indication to decisions made at the state level. He also commented that he felt that damage was being done to the education in Red Bank.
- A Board member made a statement that the Board did not have input into the budget, nor had there been a Finance Committee meeting in months. Another Board member corrected her and reminded her that on February 18 there was a Finance Committee meeting where detailed budget information was shared, and with access to administrators who were present to ask questions and express thoughts on the budget. Board member also reminded her that she was in attendance at this meeting and did participate.

AYES: Forest, Jones, Lowe, Ludwikowski, Whyte, Roseman, Noble

NAYS: Costa            ABSTENTIONS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS

- NJSBA Training on March 18 has been postponed.
- Question about whether the district will be getting a thorough and efficient education based on the cuts. Dr. Morana indicated that as discussed, we look at requirements for meeting a thorough and efficient education and we are maintaining those requirements. However, when we look at the development of the whole child, those critical pieces are not funded in the budget.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 pm the Board convened to Executive Session.

At this time Ms. Costa and Ms. Lowe left the meeting.

13. PUBLIC SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21 pm Mr. Forest motioned, seconded by Ms. Roseman, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Darrow  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary