

The Randolph Township Board of Education held a Special Board meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 07:30 p.m. in the Randolph Middle School Auditorium, 507 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, New Jersey.

Board President Ms. Tammy MacKay called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right 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 Randolph Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in The Daily Record. It is also posted in all district schools as well as the Randolph Township Municipal Building.

### **Roll Call**

The following Board members were present: Mr. Al Matos, Ms. Colleen Pascale, Ms. MaryAnn Spagnuolo, Ms. Anne Standridge, Ms. Amy Sachs and Ms. Tammy MacKay.

Board members Mr. Charles Mooney and Mr. David Rosenblatt were absent.

The following administrators were present: Dr. David Browne, Superintendent, Miss Jennifer Fano, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Peter Weigly, Interim Business Administrator / Board Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **President / Superintendent's Report**

Board President Ms. Tammy MacKay introduced FFT Chair Mr. Al Matos, who presented the 2013 – 2014 school budget power point program. Mr. Matos reviewed current district-wide achievements, comparative spending, projected revenues and appropriations. Budget initiatives were discussed.

Board member Mr. Charles Mooney arrived at 07:34 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. David Browne and the Assistant Superintendent Ms. Jennifer Fano elaborated on district's educational initiatives, including the proposed middle school restructuring and curriculum updates. Board member Mr. Al Matos then addressed proposed district-wide capital outlay projects.

Board President Ms. Tammy MacKay briefly outlined the process that the Board and administration undertook to develop the proposed fiscal year 2013 - 2014 budget.

## **Public Discussion**

Randolph resident asked the reasons why the Board opted not to exceed the two percent tax levy cap. He asked about the double periods for language arts and the relationship to the middle school restructuring, as well as pull-outs for music and other special classes. He concluded by asking about leveling of classes.

Another resident asked for clarification of the proposed time periods of classes.

Another resident spoke in favor of the change in the middle school restructuring, although he did comment that world language classes should receive a greater focus.

Another resident asked about the anticipated increase in the health benefits and the large adjustment for prior year encumbrances and whether that will be reduced in the future.

Another resident spoke in support of the availability of providing a strong electives program at the middle school.

Another resident spoke out the importance of a strong electives program and the fact that so many students depend on these programs. He asked whether the Board is permitted to solicit funds from private third parties to support the educational program.

Another resident spoke of the importance of additional language arts instruction, not what she considers a reduction.

Another resident spoke to the maintenance of the sixth grade cycle's program and presented student petition on behalf of her daughter and her classmates.

Another resident spoke to the importance of maintaining the excellent instructional program in Randolph schools.

Another resident asked why the sixth grade students cannot keep their current schedule. She also questioned the accuracy of the comparative per pupil cost figures.

Another resident also spoke to the importance of maintain language arts instruction at the current levels for the success of students' futures in college and employment.

Another resident also addressed the same issue, saying language arts instructional needs can be addressed in the proposed programmatic restructuring.

Another resident is opposed to eliminating electives at the middle school level and in support of the proposed schedule changes. She still would like to maintain the

language arts program. She asked whether there were any administrative cuts made. She asked whether all teachers received new I-Pads and whether the football turf field was funded instead of educational programs.

Resident and parent of a seventh grader spoke to importance of maintaining a strong reading program in the middle school and high school.

Another resident asked what savings are being realized through the restructuring. He also asked whether there will be any post-approval window of the budget to allow for reconsideration of the restructuring.

Former Board member thanked the Board for all of the hard work that entered into the budget and the proposed restructuring. She asked whether the additional \$832K in budgeted fund balance did not raise the overall budget. She asked for reconsideration of the proposal and deferring it to the future.

Another resident spoke to what he perceived of the lateness of time in which resident can provide input on the restructuring. He suggested a further restructuring to seven periods.

Resident of an eighth grade student spoke in support of maintaining the current ILA program.

Another resident spoke in support of enhancing the technology program. He asked about stipends for team leaders.

Another resident asked whether the restructuring proposal is budget driven or educationally driven. She asked for consideration to defer this decision for a year.

Another resident questioned the shorter lunch periods, stating this will affect the quality of pull-out classes.

Another resident again addressed her concerns regarding the restructuring. She asked whether the administration is confident this is the best possible program for the middle school. She asked for better communication to residents concerning the professional development program.

Another resident stated he believes the elimination of cycle's program is the wrong thing to do. Was this budget or educationally driven? He believes the cycle's program should be restored at least in part.

Another resident expressed her son's disappointment in the elimination of cycle's program, specifically the cooking classes.

Returning to the podium, former Board member stated she did not know about the committee of teachers and others that had been reviewing this proposal. She stated

she is more comfortable with the process as a result. She expressed her trust in the district administrators.

Another resident expressed the possibility of incorporating some flex time into the middle school schedule.

Returning to the podium, resident asked that consideration be given to PE and world language as things that we don't have to do five days per week so that we can get some flexibility in around the cycle classes.

Board member Mr. Al Matos, Dr. Browne, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Ms. Fano, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary Mr. Peter Weigly, Board members Ms. Amy Sachs, Mr. Charles Mooney, Ms. Colleen Pascale, Ms. MaryAnn Spagnuolo and Board President Ms. Tammy MacKay responded to all questions.

### **Adjournment**

Board member Mr. Al Matos made a motion seconded by Ms. Colleen Pascale and carried by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 p.m. with an exception:

Board member Mr. David Rosenblatt was absent.

The board adjourned the meeting at 11:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter J. Weigly  
Acting Board Secretary