



Robbinsville

T O W N S H I P

BE AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL

David Fried, Mayor
1 Washington Blvd., 2nd Floor, Suite 6, Robbinsville, NJ 08691
(609) 918-0002 ext. 100 Fax (609) 918-1442

May 5, 2010

Mr. Birch Wilson
c/o Robbinsville High School
via Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As Mayor and Council President we write to you to ask that you agree to open contract negotiations with the Robbinsville Township Board of Education to consider a year long salary freeze, as well as consider a 1.5% contribution to the health benefits plan.

Preliminary financial analysis has indicated that if your membership were agreeable to the one year salary freeze it would result in a savings to the district of approximately \$650,000, and the 1.5 % contribution to health benefits would result in an additional \$200,000 savings.

We would not approach you on this subject had Township employees not made similar sacrifices. Given the difficult economic times we currently face, we enacted furloughs for employees on Fridays, we also cut management salaries, and every employee is now paying one percent of their salary to offset our health insurance costs including all of the bargaining units. With the recent legislation that amount will rise to the 1.5% in mid May.

We understand that this represents a significant sacrifice on the part of your membership and we understand it is a difficult choice for your membership to make, but we are faced with a failed budget that must be examined in detail. We firmly believe that the children are the most important element of the equation.

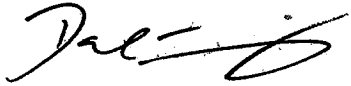
There is much discussion about Governor Christie's call for these initiatives and about his proposal to provide additional aid to school districts that accept the salary freeze and insurance contributions. We understand that the NJEA is opposed to the idea. We ask that you and your membership look at the facts and make the right choice. The School District could certainly benefit from any additional aid from the State.

These are challenging economic times. Many in the private sector have been faced with similar pay freezes and contributions to their health insurance to make ends meet in their companies. These concessions have allowed companies to maintain their entire existing work force as they forge through the present crisis.

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This is not a good time for any of us, but we would implore you to consider these options as a means to preserve as many programs for the children as possible. We thank you for your consideration and are available to meet with you and your leadership at your convenience. Please call the Township office and speak to Diane Zammit at (609) 918-0002, extension 102 to set up a meeting.

We thank you for your time and consideration.



Dave Fried
Mayor



Rich Levesque
Council President