



Robbinsdale Area Schools School Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 21, 2011 at 5:30 PM

School Board Dialogue

Education Service Center Boardroom, 4148 Winnetka Avenue North,
New Hope, Minnesota

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1. Robbinsdale Area Schools Board Dialogue with Legislative Action Coalition 2
Time: 5:30 p.m.



*The mission of Robbinsdale Area Schools
is to inspire and educate all learners
to discover their potential and
positively contribute to their community.*

**Board Dialogue with Legislative Action Coalition
Monday, November 21, 2011
5:00 – light supper; 5:30 – 6:45 dialogue
Education Service Center Boardroom**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Robbinsdale Area Schools Legislative Action Coalition 2012 Legislative Platform Presentation**
- 3. School Board/Legislative Action Coalition Discussion of 2012 Legislative Platform**
- 4. Comments and Questions**
- 5. Adjourn**

**Robbinsdale Area Schools
Legislative Action Coalition
DRAFT 2012 Legislative Platform DRAFT**

The purpose of the legislative platform is to provide a means to both communicate to our legislators the needs of our students and school district, and also to help our community understand education issues and engage in legislative advocacy to build a strong school system and a strong community.

Education is a guaranteed and essential service in the state's constitution and is the key to Minnesota's future success. Robbinsdale Area Schools is dedicated to providing the individualized education that each student needs including early childhood, regular education and programs for gifted students. The state must reform the education funding system to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding sufficient to prepare all of our students to succeed in a post-secondary program.

RESOURCE ISSUES:

- 1) The state must fully fund special education so that special education students are well served and resources are not diverted from the general fund.
- 2) The state should develop a plan to return to a 90-10 funding pattern and begin paying back the funds owed to schools without impacting current funding levels and set criteria for the reporting of the payback.
- 3) The state must maintain its commitment to equitable and integrated learning environments as reforms are made to the integration revenue program.
- 4) Establish an equalized early learning levy to allow school districts to develop or expand school-based early childhood education programs and full-day kindergarten.
- 5) Like all other publicly elected bodies, school boards should be allowed to generate and spend financial resources to best meet local needs especially when state funding resources are limited.



POLICY ISSUES:

School boards work closely with the communities they serve and are best positioned to understand local issues and to make decisions regarding district programs and finances. It is important that state laws support local control and decision making, and that broad mandates be eliminated.

- 1) Current policies and procedures of managing the school trust lands should be reformed to maximize the future revenues from these resources.
- 2) RAS supports allowing locally elected school boards to determine their school calendar including setting the start date.
- 3) The state should use growth measures when reporting school and student performance. Growth measures are a more accurate indicator of a student's and school's performance and also support schools to improve individualized student instruction.

