

February 25 School Board Meeting  
Math Discussion

*The views expressed here do not reflect a position of the Civic Association. They are from notes made during the discussion and are only meant to provide the public with information.*

Several parents and teachers had opposing viewpoints about the Robbinsville Math Curriculum.

Parents voiced these opinions:

- New Jersey Math Standards are substandard
- Robbinsville Math Program does not prepare students for college
- The board appeared to be conducting a campaign to suppress discussion.
- The National Council of Teachers of Math which endorses the program will accept anybody into the organization without checking their background.
- There should be a subcommittee to have a dialogue over the program.
- New Jersey State Assessment Test does not have a “good standing.”
- At the Pizza with the Superintendent Meeting, Dr. Szabo said he would look into the situation. At a subsequent meeting with the book publisher representatives, the reps gave the audience “A song and dance.”
- California and Texas have rejected the textbooks used in Robbinsville.
- Thousands on the Internet criticize the texts.
- Math harder in Iran than the United States.
- Many parents want changes because they are disappointed in the math program.
- There is an assumption that every child struggles with math.
- Some children are good in math and the gifted should “soar.”
- There is a need to discuss the program.
- There are common math problems in jobs that students would not be able “to do under everyday math.”

Teachers voiced these opinions:

- The math program started 7 years ago when the district saw a need for new math because math scores were not competitive.
- Staff worked with a math college professor and then examined three programs. Schools using the program were visited. Teachers and administrators were interviewed about the program during these school visits.
- The math was piloted and adopted a year later.
- There are pre-Algebra concepts in this program along with some geometry. They were not in the previous program.
- CORE Content standards are met through this program.
- Teachers want students to understand the concepts including algebraic concepts.
- The program just uses different strategies.
- The program is going in the right direction.

Administrative response:

- The new program had been piloted before adoption.
- Math scores have significantly improved for many students.
- The district is not blindly following the math program.
- Mr. Setaro, Mr. Kuppuraju and Dr. Szabo will make a decision on going forward with a subcommittee or not.