

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 22, 2019 – 7:30 PM

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Multi-Purpose Room, Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mr. Herbst, and Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, and approximately eighty members of the public.

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:55 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

There will be a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a contractual matter.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Teachers of the Year

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Congratulations to: | Kismet Bohajian | Cherry Hill School |
| | Scott Moody | Roosevelt School |
| | Dr. Stephanie Seigel | New Bridge Center |

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed parents, students, families, and colleagues to our Teacher of the Year ceremony. She explained the process through which the teachers are selected for this achievement. She congratulated the three Teachers of the Year and had each of them come up to accept the honor.

Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, and Mrs. Kuruc congratulated each of the teachers they supervised on the honor of being named Teacher of the Year and spoke about their contributions to the district. The Board of Education presented flowers, a Golden Apple, and a certificate to each teacher. In addition, the PTO's and Ms. O'Keefe, Co-President of REEA, presented the Teachers a Gift Card. Mr. Herbst, President of the River Edge Board of Education, mentioned that Mr. Moody was his teacher and he congratulated all of the Teachers of the Year. The teachers thanked everyone and spoke about their teaching experience in River Edge.

Motion by: Ms. Brown Seconded by: Ms. Doyle That the Board of Education authorize \$500.00 each to Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School, and New Bridge Center for the Teacher Recognition Award for the 2018-2019 school year to be spent at the discretion of each Teacher of the Year for the benefit of the school.

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

Honor the following Student Winners who are candidates for the National Science Championship:

John Kim
Ashish Panicker- Sixth Grade Winner North Jersey Region Division
Sarvesvaran Vivekanandan

Mr. Werner, Math and Science Coach/Supervisor, explained that over 40 students from Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School participated in the preliminary qualification round of the Science Championship Contest. He stated we had eight students qualify and participate in the regional qualifications at the New Jersey Aviation Museum on April 12th. Three out of the eight students qualified for the National Science Championship in Atlanta Georgia in June and all three students are attending. They are: John Kim, Ashish Panicker, and Sarvesvaran Vivekanandan. Mr. Werner wished them the best of luck in Atlanta Georgia and all joined in congratulating them.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov reviewed District goal, number 3 with the board: This is a three-year goal to enhance differentiation in the classroom in order to improve student achievement in Reading for kindergarten through grade 3, as evidenced by increased documentation of differentiation in walkthrough and observation reports. Use of a universal screener (DIBELS) will identify targeted areas for differentiated instruction and become a valuable tool for progress monitoring. This goal was facilitated by the NJTSS (New Jersey Tiered System of Support) three year grant that our District received. She stated everything we said we would accomplish we did. This included Professional Development, small group instruction, visits from Dr. Jessica Hammond, our Department of Education Coach, classroom visits assessing what our needs are. After our general assessment and analysis from our data one thing we realized we needed to establish was a universal screener and that screener would be applied to reading skills of our young readers. The screener recommended by our coach is called DIBELS. The coaches and the primary teachers received training in its administration. Grades k-3 teachers were trained in DIBELS and initial intervention demonstrated great results. For next year, we started to plan to create school kits to enhance small group instruction for our targeted interventions.
- Part of this grant was a mandatory meeting to assess and improve parent engagement. We were asked to have a parent meeting that will have a presentation from our different district ethnic groups, teachers, and administrators. We also invited a board member. The meeting was facilitated by a representative from SPAN (Student, Parent Advocacy Network). She wanted us to rate what we have done for parent engagement. We collaborated on it in different areas of communication and shared what the district has done in these areas. Dr. Ben-Dov shared this document with the board. The more effective we can be at reaching people the more successful we will be with parent engagement. This is a goal we want to pursue for next year. We have already started implementing short term improvements in the way we share information. Dr. Ben-Dov discussed the changes we will be making for next year to encourage greater parent engagement. Ms. Dansky attended the meeting, as a representative of the Board, and

shared her perspective with the Board. She stated this meeting was the most productive meeting she has ever been to. She got to see and hear a lot of different perspectives. Some are easy changes and some are not as easy. She complimented the staff for all they are already doing and emphasized how important it is that we are able to hear from the parents and to make some changes already in one week since the meeting. She said that was commendable and should be recognized. We were able to make these changes because of the meeting. She knows many additional improvements will be made next year.

- Dr. Ben-Dov gave a follow up on summer school. She stated letters went home to parents regarding some positive changes to the Academic Support classes. She has received some questions from parents regarding summer school and has gotten several very qualified teachers to teach these classes. When registration is completed in June, Dr. Ben-Dov will sit with Mr. Armen to create groups and assign the teachers to the groups.
- Dr. Ben-Dov reported on a HIB Incident. It involved a group text that was reported by a sixth grade parent about an incident in Cherry Hill School. Four sixth grade students used offensive language, racial comments, and homophobic language against another sixth grader. It was investigated and found to be HIB related. Consequences were given to the offenders: parents were called, conferences, detentions, counseling sessions, and a letter of apology were some of the consequences. Counselors reviewed with students strategies of how to solve problems with others.
- Instructional rounds were held on Monday. They were done in classes that were collaborative classes. People from Roosevelt School were able to come and observe Cherry Hill School. It was very productive.
- Girls Who Code was discussed with the PTO leadership. They are looking for volunteers. Cherry Hill School PTO already had their meeting and got three parent volunteers. We will have teachers train our volunteers. Roosevelt School PTO will hold their meeting on June 7th. Dr. Ben-Dov is hoping to get some volunteers from Roosevelt School as well.
- There was a very successful Parent Academy held on Monday evening with the topic of: Using Pictorial Models to Support Students in Math Grades 3-6. It was well attended by parents and students who also presented along with teachers.
- There have been two rounds of Assistant Principal interviews. Mrs. Heitman and Dr. Ben-Dov conducted the first round of interviews. They interviewed ten candidates and brought five back for a second round of interviews with the Administrative Team. Two candidates were chosen to come and meet the board members as finalists. This will happen on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:30 PM in the Cherry Hill School Media Center.
- Dr. Ben-Dov attended her Spring Association Conference last week. She only attended social/emotional sessions. She enjoyed the workshops she attended and found the conference very meaningful and productive with practical suggestions for our social/emotional efforts.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Teacher appreciation week was two weeks ago. A huge thank you to the PTO for their wonderful luncheon on Friday. She also mentioned that Dr. Ben-Dov brought sweets in for the staff and Mrs. Heitman brought in Ice cream for the staff. It was a pleasant few weeks.

- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) testing is completed at both schools. This includes make-ups tests.
- Field day for fifth and sixth grade is tomorrow. Grades kindergarten through fourth grade will have theirs on the May 31st.
- Teachers are gearing up for Open House and our STEAM Celebration that will take place on May 30th.
- Building Bridges sponsored a Parent Night Out on Thursday, May 16th. The carnival was a success and the kids had a blast.
- A successful SEPAG meeting took place on Tuesday, May 21st. Ms. Nicole Elmera presented on Traveling with your Special Needs Child.
- There are field trips that will take place until the end of the school year. We are continuing to make sure the children are safe. I have spoken to the students and the bus drivers regarding safety before each trip.
- Kindergarten orientation was today at Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill will have their orientation tomorrow

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to approve to sell 10 expired leased copy machines that would otherwise be discarded because of their age.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to approve our gymnastic equipment, that is no longer being used and that is 20 years old, to be donated to a non-profit organization.
- We are working on our planning of summer work. We are meeting and talking about what will be accomplished over the summer.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- The Superintendent's Evaluation needs to be completed by mid-June
- Mr. Herbst reminded the board members the next board meeting will be on June 10th with Mr. DiCara to discuss long term planning.
- The Senate Bill S3755 is up for vote
- Mr. Herbst congratulated Mrs. Napolitano on receiving her second master's degree
- Mr. Herbst stated Mrs. Myers will be receiving an award for her 10 years of service as a board member on May 30th and Mr. Sim will receive Certified Board Leader.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. Herbst stated the committee met for the Roosevelt School 100 Year Anniversary Gala today. The topic was getting the word out for people to get all the details. There will be a separate face book page for the gala. It will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 7:00 PM. There will be performances and some speeches that evening.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of May 8, 2019.

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Ms. Doyle

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None, Abstained: Mrs. Myers

2. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

| School | Grade | Destination | Cost to District |
|---------------|--------------|---|-------------------------|
| Roosevelt | 1 | River Edge Police Station River Edge, NJ | \$0 |

Motion by Ms. Doyle
Seconded by Mrs. Myers

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated May 2019 totaling \$667,479.76 including checks #42159 through #42253. Payrolls dated April 12, 2019 and April 30, 2019, totaling \$1,190,734.65 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2018-2019 as of March 31, 2019 (Addendum).
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending March 31, 2019 (Addendum).

Further, we certify that as of March 31, 2019, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the districts financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

4. That the Board of Education accept the \$210.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
5. That the Board of Education approve to sell 10 expired leased district copy machines in the amount totaling \$2,858.00.

6. That the Board of Education accept the donation of five Chromebook Carts, two Projection Screens, and the live feed technology between the Projectors by the Cherry Hill PTO valued at \$58,725
7. That the Board of Education accept the donation of four Chromebook Carts and Licenses by the Roosevelt PTO valued at \$26,184.
8. That the Board of Education approve the following Gymnastics Equipment (20 years old that is not being used by the District) to be donated to Aeon Booster Club Parent's Association valued at approximately \$1,500. A waiver/release of liability was signed by the Non-Profit Organization.

1 High Beam
 1 Low Beam
 1 Horse
 1 Springboard
 2 Mats

Motion by Mrs. Myers
 Seconded by Ms. Kang

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
 Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education designate Michael Henzel, Affirmative Action Officer, for the River Edge School District for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. That the Board of Education approve the Affirmative Action Team, under the Affirmation Action Officer Michael Henzel, for the 2019-2020 school year:

Abby Burns-Paterson
 Tara Malkowski
 Janel Blake
 Christine Moran

3. That the Board of Education re-approve the Summer Enrichment Program teacher rate to be \$33.00 per class for Summer 2019.
4. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Enrichment Program teacher rate for Academic Support to be \$50.00 per class for Summer 2019.
5. That the Board of Education approve to abolish the .8 and .5 Academic Support Teacher positions effective June 30, 2019 and hereby approve to create two (2) full time Academic Support Teacher positions effective September 1, 2019.
6. That the Board of Education approve to abolish the .5 Gifted and Talented Teacher position effective June 30, 2019 and hereby approve one (1) .8 Gifted and Talented Teacher position effective September 1, 2019.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Courtney Sweet, Primary Building Bridges Teacher, MA step 4, for the 2019-2020 school year.

8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Cassandra McGovern, Teacher, MA step 4, for the 2019-2020 school year.
9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Bianca Kim, Leave-Replacement Teacher, MA step 1, for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by Ms. Kang
 Seconded by Ms. Dansky

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
 Nays: None, Abstained: Ms. Brown

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the contract with Bergen County Special Services School for 192/193 services to non-public schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by Ms. Dansky
 Seconded by Mr. Sim

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
 Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated May 2019 totaling \$1,181,756.71 including checks #71940 through #72100. (Addendum)
2. WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education (the “Board”) is the lead education agency (“LEA”) for the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education (“Region V”); and

WHEREAS, Region V provides shared services for its member districts such as evaluations, direct services, and consultation; and

WHEREAS, as the LEA, the Board must approve the consultant agreements of the providers that Region V utilizes to deliver shared services to its member districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, re-approves the consultant agreements of the following Region V Shared Services Consultants, Psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Social Workers, Speech Language Specialists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, and Translators to provide evaluations, direct services, and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2018-2019 school year:

Aveanna Healthcare Formerly Epic Health Services

3. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2018-2019 school year:

| Route # | Transporter | Per Diem |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| 2746 | Ace Transportation | \$169.00 |
| 2735 | Destiny 23 | \$179.00 |
| 2738 | Pro Trans | \$145.00 |
| 2740 | Pro Trans | \$195.00 |
| 2739 | Triumph Invalid Coach | \$110.00 |

4. That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region V/River Edge Board of Education (Host) and West Orange Board of Education (Joiner).

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky reported on the following:

May 10th New Jersey School Board, Board of Directors made a donation to sustainable New Jersey

There will be a New Jersey School Board County Meeting on May 30th at the Holiday Inn in Hasbrouck Heights.

Early Registration Fee for the NJSBA Fall Conference is being offered now

Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Dansky, and Mr. Herbst are presenting at the NJSBA Fall Conference October 21st-October 24th

Ms. Dansky attended the May 13 Special Education Symposium and heard speaker on “Wings of Change” it was an excellent presentation.

Ms. Dansky apologized to the Board for her tone at the last board meeting on the topic discussed in the confidential meeting.

Mr. Sim stated there was a Delegate Assembly-upcoming leadership

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mrs. Myers to convene into closed session at 10:11 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Ms. Brown to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:39 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator