

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

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 16, 2011**  
**7:30 PM Public Meeting**

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Project Room, New Bridge Center, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Ms. Di Maulo called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Mrs. Buckley read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mrs. Buckley; Ms. Dansky; Ms. Di Maulo; Mrs. Myers; Mrs. Walker; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Trainor, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Mr. Vouvalides, and approximately forty-five members of the public.

Mr. Kucharski was absent.  
 Mr. Busteed arrived at 7:50 PM.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Dr. Ben-Dov read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Review of 2010-2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

- Gerilynn Swede of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the district audit report to the Board Members. Gerilynn has been with the River Edge Board of Education for three weeks performing the annual audit. There were no audit recommendations and she commended the Board office for their great record keeping. She said everything was clean, thorough and documented.

Ms. Trainor announced she was proud of the audit report and thanked her staff for all of their hard work. This is the third consecutive year that the district has had a report without recommendations.

Full Day Kindergarten Proposal

- Dr. Ben-Dov discussed with the Board members the possibility of having full day sessions for the Kindergarten classes in the River Edge school district. She went over some of the pros and cons about having full day Kindergarten. The pros included the following: It's a greater opportunity for the students to have more instruction and teacher contact and it

gives them more flexibility and structure. It is an easier transition to first grade, gives the students more time for fine motor development, more time for the kids to complete tasks on their own, more time for structured play and socialization, and better for working parents. The cons are: It will take a little longer to know all students and traffic would be a big challenge at dismissal. Dr. Ben-Dov said that traffic solutions will continue to be discussed. In summary; the students would benefit tremendously from a full day Kindergarten program. A resolution will be placed on the December 7, 2011 agenda to approve the program.

#### Presentation of Revenue Projection 2012-2013

- Ms. Trainor presented the preliminary revenue projection for the 2012-2013 school year budget. The tax levy is calculated with a 2% increase, the maximum allowed. The appropriations from surplus are considerably less than prior years.

#### Budget and Presentation of Necessary items for 2012-2013 Budget

- Dr. Ben-Dov discussed the categories of mandatory and necessary items for the 2012-2013 budgets. Mandatory items are those mandated by the state to run a school district or by the contract to provide preps for teachers. Necessary items are everything we believe that makes a district what it is. Dr. Ben-Dov gave some examples of the necessary items which are instrumental music, science labs, technology, gifted and talented, world language, testing supplies, class trips, curriculum textbooks, technology equipment, sonic wall upgrades.

#### Building and Grounds

- Mr. Lyons and Ms. Trainor presented the Board with a list of 12 necessary items that they believe need to be done. They reviewed these items for the 2012-2013 Building and Grounds budget. These items are switches and electrical outlets in some of the Cherry Hill classrooms, 3 exterior doors in the Roosevelt school, security cameras in the hallways and lunchrooms, painting in the gyms, hot water heaters need to be replaced, refurbishing of the boilers, foam needs to be coated for UB Rays, rear building has broken gutters, replace some of the lighting on the black top, continue to replace fencing, some classrooms doors need to be refinished, and 4 classrooms needs new carpeting.
- Ms. Trainor mentioned some of the necessary district expenses including chalk talk and part time clerical aides.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- There was a positive article in the Bergen Record about the River Edge School District.
- There was one HIB incident on November 13, 2011 at Roosevelt School. An investigation took place and it was not HIB related.
- Second Cup of Coffee meeting was held on November 16, 2011 at Cherry Hill. The parents were pleased with our actions.
- There will be a River Edge Education Foundation meeting on November 28, 2011. Meetings for this foundation have been dormant for a long time.
- Dr. Ben-Dov applauded Mr. Henzel for getting the Climate surveys out to the staff and parents

### **PRINCIPALS**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Monica Schnee's ESL class was observed by NJN Classroom Close Up
- New Bridge Center is getting good use of the district's school bus
- An Anti-Bullying Parent Meeting was held on November 3, 2011
- HIB surveys went out to staff and parents. 277 parents and 104 teachers completed it to date.

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- The Halloween parade was held on October 31, 2011. It went well despite the weather.
- Report cards will be issued on November 28, 2011 followed by Parent Teacher Conferences on November 29, 2011 and December 1, 2011
- Veteran's Day Ceremony was held on November 9, 2011. It was very well done and would like to attend every year weather permitting.
- Teacher's Professional day was held on November 8, 2011. It went very well. The teachers got a lot out of it and brought what they learned to the classroom.
- The PTO sponsored a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble. It was well received. Many teachers went and read to the children.

### **BOARD SECRETARY-None**

### **PRESIDENT**

Ms. DiMaulo reported on the following:

- Community Planning Event meeting will be held on January 7, 2012. A decision has to be made where to have the meeting because the library is not available on that date.

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **Building and Grounds**

- Mrs. Buckley spoke about the Building and grounds meeting she attended. They talked about the difference between major projects and maintenance. They also spoke about the key items from a building and grounds perspective.

#### **NJSBA Delegate**

- Ms. Dansky cannot attend the Delegate Assembly on November 19, 2011. She asked the Board members if anyone else can attend. A conversation ensued and it was decided to have the ceremony in district.

## After School Program

- Mrs. Myers read the following report:

### **Public Statement Regarding The River Edge Extended Day Care Program**

The Board has been in negotiations with the River Edge Extended Day Care Program since the beginning of the school year in an effort to finalize the terms of an agreement which would permit this organization to continue to operate a before school and after school program at Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. The Board submitted a comprehensive agreement to the River Edge Extended Day Care Program in September, which granted them a 3 year license at an annual fee to be increased in the second and third years by 2%. The Board also proposed to cap the tuition fee for the program at the rate charged to parents and guardians as of June 30, 2011. In reviewing the River Edge Extended Day Care Program's finances, the Board felt that there were more than sufficient assets being held by this not-for-profit corporation to enable them to successfully continue their operations for the next 3 years without increasing the tuition or fees charged to the parents and guardians who participate in the program. Unfortunately, the River Edge Extended Day Care Program has been unwilling to accept the terms of the Board's proposed agreement. Since this impasse has not been resolved, the Board has advised the River Edge Extended Day Care Program that they will maintain this program under their auspices for the remainder of this school year, so that there is no interruption of services to our students. However, it is the Board's intention to publicly advertise for new sponsorship of this program for the 2012-2013 school year upon the terms which were proposed by the Board and rejected by the River Edge Extended Day Care Program. Toward that end, a committee of the Board will be inviting that parents and guardians to meet with them before the Board publicly advertises for new sponsorship, to ensure that through this process the services which will be provided by this program will be of the highest quality at a cost which is fair and reasonable to the parents and guardians who participate in this program.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

that the Board of Education approve the minutes of October 19, 2011 Board Meeting

that the Board of Education approves the staff development training as per the schedules for November 2011 including relevant mileage reimbursement.  
(Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers,  
Ms. Walker

Nays: None

### **CURRICULUM/EDUCATION**

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

**FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

Motion by Mr. Busted

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

that the Board of Education approves the bills & claims dated October 2011, totaling \$2,643.76 including checks # 32355 through # 32360 and November 2011 totaling \$813,603.82 including checks # 32361 through # 32586. Payrolls dated October 14, 2011 and October 31, 2011, totaling \$957,566.95 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers,

Nays: None

Abstained: Ms.Walker

Motion by Mrs. Buckley

Seconded by Mrs. Myers

that the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2011-2012 as of September 30, 2011. (Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms.Walker

Nays: None

Motion by Mrs. Myers

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

that the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending September 30, 2011

Further, we certify that as of September 30, 2011 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 over expended 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. (Addendum)

that the Board of Education approve the 2010-2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Corrective Action Plan. (Addendum)

that the Board of Education authorizes the payment due the following employee for unused sick days.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms.Walker

Nays: None

**PERSONNEL**

**RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Motion by Ms.Dansky

Seconded by Ms. Walker

That the Board of Education approves the Quote contract with Valley Transportation for daily as needed transportation services for New Bridge Center for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms.Walker

Nays: None

**REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busteed

that the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract for Ace Transportation for the 2011-2012 school year. (Addendum)

Route #	School	Per Diem
1940	Gramon School	\$139.00

that the Board of Education approve the following Renewal Contract for Ateel Transportation for the 2011-2012 school year. (Addendum)

Route #	School	Per Diem
1829	Windsor West Milford	\$166.02

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms.Walker

Nays: None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hunter, Director of the After School Program, addressed the Board. He stated a willingness to work with the Board to complete a lease agreement but expressed an unwillingness to accept a licensing agreement.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

that the Board of Education convened into closed session at 9:45PM to discuss contract issues.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

**RECONVENE**

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

that the Board of Education reconvenes the regular public meeting at 10:29PM.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Buckley

Seconded by Ms. Dansky

that the Board of Education adjourns the regular public meeting at 10:30 PM.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

Deborah Trainor

Board Secretary/Business Administrator