

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 20, 2016**

**7:30 PM Public Meeting**

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

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mr. Busteed; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mr. DiBella; Mrs. Myers; and Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman and one member of the public.

Mr. Koth was absent

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items –None

**Review 2014-2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)  
Gary Higgins, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP**

Gary Higgins of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the districts audit report to the Board Members. There were no audit recommendation so; a Corrective Action Plan is not needed. The District received an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of attestation that we could have received.

Mr. Higgins reviewed the District’s unfunded liabilities for the Teacher’s Pension and Annuity Fund and Public Employees Retirement System. He discussed with the Board the three ways the District could reduce its surplus. He commended the Board Office for their great record keeping. He answered all questions asked by the Board Members.

## **NJQSAC Compliance and Waiver Approval**

Dr. Ben-Dov stated NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is monitored every three years and is reviewed in five areas: instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance. This monitoring takes months of preparation and personnel from the County are on-site for one full day. In 2012-2013 we were monitored last and received 97.2 out of 100, which made us a high performing district. This is our year to be monitored by NJQSAC. It was determined that districts that are high performing could provide materials in the five areas to be reviewed to show continued compliance and would be eligible for a waiver for the on-site visit. The District would be exempt from physical monitoring for the next three years.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated that yesterday there were swatting incidents in nine Bergen County High Schools which were found to be not real threats. Dr. Ben-Dov spoke to the River Edge Police Department and was told to go about her day as the threats were not credible. Dr. Ben-Dov notified the parents by an eblast to keep them informed and calm.
- A report was released on January 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the findings of the Common Core State Standards suggesting various modifications. Governor Christie stated that the Common Core State Standards “are gone from New Jersey” and the Commissioner wrote that the new standards will be more “Jersey centric.” PARCC assessments remain intact and we await to be notified of all the standard modifications in the future.
- Parent Academy Night was held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a well-attended evening with approximately 40 people there. They discussed “PARCC-Lessons Learned” and teachers of grades 3-6 presented grade level workshops. The next Parent Academy will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> with Oradell Public School on Cyber Bullying.
- A Town Meeting on School Safety with the Chief of Police, the new Fire Chief, River Edge Administrators and representatives from the Yeshiva of North Jersey, St. Peters, and Avodat Shalom took place today. The best evacuation routes for the children were discussed. There will be another meeting in February to solidify our revised safety plans.
- The Tenth Annual Young Artists Exhibition will be held at the River Edge Cultural Center from January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>. The snow date will be February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There will be a meeting with the new Mayor, Borough Administrator, and Councilwoman Murphy on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Ms. Dansky, and Mrs. Myers will attend.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Kindergarten registration will be at both schools. Roosevelt School will have their registration on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Cherry Hill will have theirs on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Otto the Auto Assembly was held for grades kindergarten through second on January 13<sup>th</sup>
- The River Edge student body will have a dime drive to raise money for the Iron Giraffe Challenge which will help provide water for Sudan
- REEF is sponsoring a math enrichment program called Crazy 8's. It's starting on January 13<sup>th</sup> at Cherry Hill School for eight weeks. It will then be held at Roosevelt School for eight weeks.
- Kindergarten and first grade students are doing well with chrome books and lap tops. They are practicing logging in and learning the keys.
- ESL Access Testing will start on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is all online and the students will use earphones and microphones. There will be a parent session for this on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Heitman attended a NJECC workshop last week. She talked about the different events she attended.
- Mrs. Heitman will attend the TECHSPO Conference in Atlantic City on January 28<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup>

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

- Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms are now available online. Board members should have received an email on January 13<sup>th</sup> with instructions for completing them.
- Mrs. Salvati is exploring a new telephone system which will replace our current antiquated card system. The biggest improvements would be the elimination of unused phone lines, improved connectivity, for Roosevelt School, and Caller ID district wide. The cost for the new system is \$20,000, but it will save the district \$12,000 a year going forward.
- Mrs. Salvati has been busy working on the 2016-2017 budget. The most difficult challenge is funding the cost of health benefits, contractual salary increases, and out of district tuitions.

### **PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers gave the board members a revised 2016 committees list. The new committees will start for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

### **COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Sim stated the Finance and Facilities Committee met tonight before the board meeting. They discussed the proposal for upgrading the phone service, budget items, and the parking situation at Cherry Hill School.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 18, 2015.

**Motion by: Mr. Busted Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of December 2, 2015.

**Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Mr. DiBella**

Ayes: Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Busted

3. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of December 16, 2015.

**Motion by: Mr. DiBella Seconded by: Mr. Sim**

Ayes: Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Busted, Mr. DiBella

4. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for January 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

5. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Cost to District</b>
4/21/16	Cherry Hill	1	Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	\$1,045.25
5/8/16	Cherry Hill	4	West Point Highland Falls, NY	\$400.00
*2/8/16	Roosevelt	K	River Edge Cultural Center River Edge, NJ	\$0

6. That the Board of Education approve the revised River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. (Addendum)

**CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** - None

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

## **FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated January 2016 totaling \$393,167.58 including checks #38124 through #38203. Payrolls dated December 15, 2015 and December 23, 2015, totaling \$1,112,823.49 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 2015-2016 as of November 30, 2015. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending November 30, 2015.

Further, we certify that as of November 30, 2015 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. (Addendum)

## **PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education approve the following individuals for movement on the step guide effective February 1, 2016 based on educational credentials.

Noy Sapir	from	BA+15	to	MA
Monica Schnee	from	MA+15	to	MA+30
AnneMarie Spiegel	from	BA+15	to	MA

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Elisabeth Moscaritolo Keeney, ABA Aide, effective February 5, 2016.
3. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle III of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2015-2016 School Year:

### **Cherry Hill**

Maryann Crudello  
Melissa Gant

4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as substitute employees for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>Substitute Teacher</u>	<u>Substitute Clerical Aide</u>
Mariana Marinich	Yvonne Bell

5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Ron Joseph Laxamana, Part-time Aide, effective January 22, 2016.

## **RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION** - None

## **REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated January 2016 totaling \$725,211.98 including checks #65419 through #65567.

**Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Danahy to approve consent agenda**

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:50 PM made by Mr. DiBella and seconded by Mr. Busteed.

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator