

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 18, 2015**

**6:30 PM**

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 6:35 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. DiBella read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mr. DiBella; Mrs. Myers; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman, and approximately 12 members of the public.

Mr. Busteed arrived at 6:55 PM

Mr. Sim arrived at 8:15 PM

Ms. Walker was absent

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

District and Board Goal-Long-term Strategic Planning– Alfred Annunziata, NJSBA

Mr. Alfred Annunziata, New Jersey School Boards Association, helped the board members develop their District Goal for Facilities. During this meeting members of the public were able to voice their opinions and ask questions. Mr. Annunziata answered all questions that were asked.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- There was a State Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) meeting last night at Cherry Hill School that was organized by Region V. It was well attended by 45 people.
- The first Bi-Borough meeting took place today with Ms. Diminich and the River Edge and Oradell administrators. They discussed curriculum, instruction, assessment, and Parent Academy. A Report Card Committee with Oradell will start in December.
- There was one potential HIB Incident to report. It involved two Roosevelt 5<sup>th</sup> graders (Student A) made religious, verbal comments to another Roosevelt 5th grader (Student B). It was investigated and found not to be HIB related. Consequences were given in accordance with the River Edge Code of Conduct.
- There is a professional development day for teachers and paraprofessionals on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They will be trained in the efficient use of paraprofessionals in the classrooms.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the board members a PARCC update. She stated district information will be available starting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Individual student reports are expected by December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be sent to parents within a week.
- There was an extended evacuation drill this month for faculty and students. We are trying to plan a Town Meeting in January for all questions that arose during this drill.
- The fall edition of R.E.A.C.H. is now live
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- An exploration trip to research STEM Labs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is planned for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dwight Englewood School. Dr. Ben-Dov will report on this at the next board meeting.

### **PRINCIPALS**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Pre-k and Kindergarten has finished a fire safety unit
- Building Bridges and Building Connections visited the Liberty Science Center. A representative from the Liberty Science Center came to our school to meet with the students and teachers to design the program for them.
- The fifth graders are working on science weather projects. The Franklin Institute came with really great science topics for grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

- Students can take books out online now and have them put on hold. They can also take out eBooks using any device.
- Multicultural themes are happening throughout the schools. During Veterans Day the Student Council created a book to say thank you to our veterans in all languages.
- Google Expedition Program came to Roosevelt School. It is a virtual reality program where the students get to experience events such as going to the moon and swimming with the sharks.

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati had her exit conference for the audit last week with Gary Higgins, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP. He had no findings, but offered her suggestions for the future. He asked if the board can approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at the next board meeting. He can come in January to present the audit report to the board.
- On tonight's agenda there is a motion to approve the resignation of board member Wendy Walker. Ms. Salvati has advertised the board vacancy in The Record and Town News. She will have it e-blasted to parents and put on the district website after the resignation is accepted.
- There are new state regulations for bus drivers who drive special education students. Region V will take care of the training for the River Edge bus driver.

## **PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers attended a Mayor and Council meeting Monday night. Parking on Bogert Road during the school day was discussed.
- Mrs. Myers stated Cherry Hill School parking needs to be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

## **COMMITTEES**

- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Curriculum Meeting that was held with Ms. Diminich on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Danahy attended a district Technology Meeting. She said there will be another meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for November 2015 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the 2016 Board of Education Meeting Dates as follows:

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
January 6, 2016	Roosevelt School
January 20, 2016	Cherry Hill School
February 3, 2016	Roosevelt School
February 24, 2016	Cherry Hill School
March 2, 2016	Roosevelt School
March 16, 2016	Cherry Hill School
April 6, 2016	Roosevelt School
April 20, 2016	Cherry Hill School
May 4, 2016	Roosevelt School
May 18, 2016	Cherry Hill School
June 8, 2016	Roosevelt School
June 29, 2016	Cherry Hill School

3. That the Board of Education approve the following to attend the TECHSPO Conference from January 28 – January 29, 2016 in Atlantic City, New Jersey

Dr. Tova Ben-Dov  
Denise Heitman  
Michael Henzel

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
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 November 2015 totaling \$429,265.99 including checks #37895 through #38004. Payrolls dated October 15, 2015 and October 30, 2015, totaling \$1,078,950.51 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are 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 September 30, 2015. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending September 30, 2015.

Further, we certify that as of September 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 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)

4. The Board of Education approve the Budget Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year budget.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
 Nays: None

**E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle II of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2015-2016 School Year:

<u>Cherry Hill</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
Deborah Auriemma	Whitney Castellvi
Kaitlyn Burke	Lauren Della Torre
Reem Halabi	Ashley Denn
Emma Halik	Wendy Otis
June Karpowich	Beth Unanue
Noy Sapir	

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Megan Lee-Fittizzi, Student for Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Level I observation, one day per week starting January 27, 2016 through May 11, 2016.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Erin Smith as a Student Teacher from January 11, 2016 to April 27, 2016.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Erin Smith as a Substitute Teacher for the 2015-2016 School Year.
5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Wendy Walker, Trustee, from the Board of Education effective November 16, 2015.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
 Nays: None

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve a Tuition Contract with the Sage Day School in Mahwah, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office. Transportation will be provided through Region V. The tuition rate is as follows:

\$54,054 2015–2016 School Year, to be prorated from November – June

**Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Ms. Danahy**

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
Nays: None

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November, 2015 totaling \$813,661.08 including checks #65120 through #65268.

**Motion by: Ms. Danahy Seconded by: Mr. Busteed**

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
Nays: None

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**- None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**- None

**ADJOURNMENT**

That the Board of Education adjourns the regular public meeting at 9:45 PM.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
Nays: None

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator