

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 3, 2016**

**6:30 PM Confidential Session** (Review of non-tenured personnel)

**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, Roosevelt School, 711 Summit Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661.

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**CLOSED SESSION**

That the Board of Education convene into closed session at 6:30 PM to discuss non-tenured staff members.

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

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

**RECONVENE**

That the Board of Education reconvene the regular public meeting at 7:55 PM.

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

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

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were; Mr. Busted; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Danksy; Mr. DiBella; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman and two members of the public.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

## **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Kathleen Murphy, River Edge resident, introduced herself as the Liaison to the River Edge Board of Education. She asked the board a few questions regarding some of the resolutions on the agenda.

### **2016-2017 Preliminary Budget – Patricia Salvati**

Ms. Salvati stated this is the first glimpse of the 2016-2017 budget. It is still a work in progress. There will be three meetings before the tentative budget goes to the county in March. The Public Hearing will be on May 4, 2016. Ms. Salvati presented a review of the current year budget and proposed budget for each of the categories in the 2016–2017 budget. Ms. Salvati answered all questions asked by the board members.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Kindergarten registration was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Roosevelt School and January 28<sup>th</sup> at Cherry Hill School. Roosevelt had a total of 56 registrants with four moving up from Pre-k. Cherry Hill had a total of 76 registrants with seven moving up from Pre-k. As of now, a total of three kindergarten classes are needed at Roosevelt and four kindergarten classes are needed at Cherry Hill for the 2016-2017 school year. There are eight Kindergarten classes included in the 2016-2017 budget Dr. Ben-Dov stated we have 20 more registrants this year than last year at this time.
- Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the parking situation at Cherry Hill School. We currently have 40 regular spots, four handicapped spots, and six visitor spots at both Cherry Hill and New Bridge Center. The District needs 147 employee spots which include 13 traveling staff spots. On an average, the District has 44 parents visiting and we only have six visitor spots. In total, the District needs 191 spots and we currently have 50.
- Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Myers, and Ms. Dansky met with the River Edge Mayor and Borough Administrator. They discussed the current space concerns, Safe Routes to School, and June Court steps.
- There was a Professional Development half day on January 27<sup>th</sup>. It was a successful half day with positive feedback from participants.
- There were two positive articles about our District in the Town News on January 28<sup>th</sup>. They were about our Audit Report and QSAC results. It was noted that there were no findings on the audit report and that River Edge was a high performing district and therefore eligible for a QSAC waiver.
- The Tenth Annual Young Artists Exhibition will be held from January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup> at the River Edge Cultural Center

## **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Cherry Hill had their Spelling Bee on January 29th and their Geography Bee on February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Jill Brown came to our school and presented demo lessons for new teachers on Character Education
- Mrs. Heitman thanked our custodial staff for a great job with the snow removal
- Next Wednesday, students from the River Dell Middle School will come to work with our kindergarten students. They will read to the students and do an art activity with them.
- There was a District Technology Meeting today. They spoke about ESL Access testing, PARCC, recycling of the old computers, future goal-globalization, equipment, and TECHSPO. It was a very good meeting and they will meet again in March.
- Mrs. Heitman attended the TECHSPO Conference in Atlantic City on January 28<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup>. She spoke about the different workshops she attended.
- There will be a Parents Night Out on February 11<sup>th</sup>
- Student Growth Objectives (SGO) meetings are happening across the district with the principals
- International Day for Cherry Hill School is Friday, March 11th. The theme is Multi-Cultural Awareness.

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati reminded the board members the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms are now available online. They are due to the county before April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Salvati updated the Board on the phone service proposal. She has spoken to a few school districts that have a similar phone service and they gave her good feedback. She will start phase one of the new phone service over the April break. She is looking for improved service and caller ID for the district.

## **PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers had nothing to report at this meeting

## **COMMITTEES**

No committees reported at this meeting

**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 February 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	January 21, 2016 Fire Drill January 27, 2016 Lockdown
Roosevelt School	January 15, 2016 Fire Drill January 25, 2016 Lockdown

3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Equivalency Application to the County Office. Due to River Edge's "high performing" designation, the district is eligible for this waiver.

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None**

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

1. **Whereas**, The Board of Education of River Edge in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board"), desires to proceed with a school facilities projects consisting generally of:

Converting the Discovery Lab into a STEM Lab  
at Cherry Hill Elementary School

&

Converting the Discovery Lab into a STEM Lab  
at Roosevelt Elementary School

**Whereas**, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the Projects,

**Be it Resolved**, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the amendment to its Long-Range Facilities Plan in order to reflect the proposed Projects.

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education establish the tuition rates per pupil for the 2016-2017 school year:

Integrated Pre-School Program 3 half days per week \$2,450.00

Integrated Pre-School Program 4 half days per week \$3,030.00

**E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Ahinoa Otero-Gordon, ABA Aide, effective January 4, 2016.

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Cleo Perekupka, Part-time Aide, effective February 2, 2016.
3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Hagop Aram, Part-time Lunch Aide, effective February 8, 2016.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Jane Gonzalez, ABA Aide, starting February 8, 2016 through June 30, 2016, Step E.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as substitute employees for the 2015-2016 school year:

Substitute Teacher  
 Peter Himmelberg  
 Laura Noel

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Elaine Pepe, 504 Aide, effective February 4, 2016 through June 30, 2016.
7. That the Board of Education approve the payment to Wendy Naimaister, Emma Halik, and Frank Perrone in the amount of \$500.00 each for their 2014-2015 service as Grade Level Chairs as per the Settlement Agreement on file in the Board Office between the following parties:

River Edge Board of Education, and  
 Wendy Naimaister, Emma Halik, Frank Perrone, and  
 River Edge Education Association

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”) between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s office, and which Agreement is located in the student’s file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE REGION V COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION WILL PROVIDE SHARED SERVICES FOR ITS MEMBER DISTRICTS AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Region V Shared Services Consultants, Psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Social Workers, Speech Language Specialists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Translators to provide evaluations, direct services and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2015-2016 school year.

Hernandez Medical Transportation, LLC	Transporter
Deborah Trainor	Consultant – SCOPE Grant
Rachel Markin	Speech and Language Specialist
Adrienne Marchese	Behaviorist

**Motion by: Mr. Busteed Seconded by: Mr. DiBella to approve consent agenda**

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Dansky spoke about the meeting with the Mayor and Borough Administrator.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:00 PM made by Mr. Busteed and seconded by Mr. Sim

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator