

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 16, 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

Mr. Sim called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Danahy read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Busteed was absent
Mr. Koth was absent
Mrs. Myers was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Hartman, River Edge resident, asked a few questions regarding the 2016-2017 budget.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Parent/Teachers Conferences went well last week and were well attended. Dr. Ben-Dov stated spring is a constructive time of year for conferences.
- Teachers have received Part One training in PARCC and it went well. Part Two training will take place on Monday. Infrastructure trial will begin soon and Dr. Ben-Dov stated that we have enough devices at this time thanks to an additional PTO contribution and technology does not have to cease during testing. Letters about PARCC went home to parents on Friday. At this time we have a small number of refusals from Roosevelt School.

- International Day was held on March 11th in Cherry Hill School and will be held on April 1st in Roosevelt School. It is an all-day exciting event and the theme is Multi-Cultural Awareness.
- There will be a Parent Academy Meeting on the evening of March 21st in Roosevelt School. Bi-Borough is inviting Oradell and River Edge parents of grades kindergarten through second. They will teach skill-based methods and activities parents can use to help support learning at home. A teacher from River Edge and a teacher from Oradell will work with parents on each grade level.
- The Kindergarten registration for next school year has been completed. As of today, we will have 57 kindergarten students at Roosevelt School and 86 kindergarten students at Cherry Hill School. Dr. Ben-Dov is looking at five kindergarten classes at Cherry Hill and possibly three at Roosevelt. Dr. Ben-Dov will monitor any new kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school year and will decide if we should have nine classes next year or send the overflow of students to Cherry Hill if Roosevelt becomes crowded.
- The County has asked our district to invite them to the best practice in our schools. Dr. Ben-Dov has thought of many events she would like to invite them to. Sarah Weeks, the author that visited two weeks ago, has asked Mrs. Patrocinio's class to critique her new book. Dr. Ben-Dov was planning to ask the County to visit for this event and a few others.
- There was a Technology Meeting today. There will be another one on May 18th. Dr. Ben-Dov asked if a Board member can attend the next meeting. The topics that were discussed at today's meeting were: global outreach, training for PARCC, three carts of Chrome books that were gifts of the River Edge PTO's were ordered for the district, Technology Plan for 2016-2019, sharing lesson plans with Technology Coaches, cost of color printers, and Smart Note software book.
- There will be a Bi-Borough Committee Meeting in Oradell on March 22nd at 4:00 PM
- Dr. Ben-Dov asked the board members to think about how they would like to handle the school calendar and the contingencies for snow days in the future. The board decided to have a discussion on the four unused snow days for the 2015-2016 school year at the April 6th board meeting. It was mentioned that not much of a chance for poor weather was anticipated after that date.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences went very well with our Sign Up Genius. Mrs. Heitman gave a special thanks to Michael Masangcay for all of his work with this.
- International Day was held on March 11th. She thanked all of the volunteers and said they did a fabulous job. She stated the children moved through five different countries: Brazil, Germany, Guyana, France, and India. The children were able to play games, make crafts, and dance. She gave a special thanks to Susan Miele for making visa's for the children.
- In both schools our students have been busy participating in March activities. Mr. Schmid is doing a March Madness of his own. Students will learn about different colleges and universities and adopt one of them as their team. Mrs. Hafers is having students

participate in March Mathness. There will be weekly contest questions, daily math fun facts, and a Pi digits contest.

- Read Across America was a lot of fun in our schools. All of the Administrators read to various classes and videotaped themselves. This will be uploaded to our Facebook page.
- A lottery was held for students interested in attending the Integrated Preschool Program for the 2016-2017 school year

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati stated there has been talk about lead in the drinking water in the media. She stated Mr. Lyons tests our water every school year and it is safe.
- On tonight's agenda there is a motion to tentatively adopt the 2016-2017 school year budget. There is a 2.59 increase in the operating budget and maintains all existing programs, services, and staff members. She also stated the biggest challenges were budgeting for out of district tuition students and healthcare costs. Other items in the budget include painting the Roosevelt Gym and reconfiguring the Discovery Lab into STEM Labs at both schools. The labs will be paid for out of Capital Reserve and will have no impact on the taxpayers.
- Ms. Salvati reminded the board members the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms are due to the county before April 30th

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers was absent – no report

COMMITTEES

No Committees reported at this meeting

RESOLUTIONS

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 3, 2016.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for March 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
5/19/16	Cherry Hill	6	Liberty State Park/Ellis Island New York, NY	\$1,134.00
6/2/16	Cherry Hill Roosevelt	4,5,6 Music	Mahwah High School Mahwah, NJ	\$65.00

4. That the Board of Education approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

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

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 March 2016 totaling \$750,245.55 including checks #38295 through #38364. Payrolls dated February 12, 2016 and February 29, 2016, totaling \$1,085,986.89 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 January 31, 2016. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2016.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2016 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)

4. That the Board of Education tentatively adopt the 2016-2017 School Year Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>
Total General Fund	\$16,916,247
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$1,022,743
Total Debt Service	\$1,412,381
Total	\$19,351,371

Further, that the Board of Education authorize \$14,707,943 as General Fund Tax Levy and \$1,215,370 as Debt Service Tax Levy.

Be it resolved, that the River Edge Board of Education include in the proposed budget an adjustment in the amount of \$112,089 for increases in the cost of health benefits.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Education requests the approval of a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$200,000. The district intends to utilize \$90,000 to construct a STEM Lab at the Cherry Hill School and \$110,000 for a STEM Lab at Roosevelt School.

5. **WHEREAS**, River Edge School District Policy and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2016-2017 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2016-2017 school year at an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

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

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

E. PERSONNEL

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

Sarah Darian
Lisa Guinta
Christine Na
Mark Reinke

2. That the Board of Education designate Michael Henzel, Affirmative Action Officer, for the River Edge School District for the 2016-2017 school year.
3. That the Board of Education approve April Kaiser for the Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Motion by: Ms. Danahy Seconded by: Mr. DiBella

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Revised Community Based Instruction Schedule for the 2015-2016 school year. (Addendum)

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

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

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2016 totaling \$839,911.28 including checks #65799 through #65955.
2. **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.

Magen T. Kennedy
Lori Rosner
Malat Evaluation and Counseling

Physical Therapist
Speech and Language Specialist
Psychologist

Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Danahy

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky stated there will be a Second Chance Toys Collection and a free paper shredding Saturday, April 30th at the Cherry Hill School parking lot.

Ms. Dansky and Mrs. Myers met with the Mayor recently. One of the topics they spoke about was parking in the community. They are planning to meet again with him at the end of April.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Kathleen Murphy, River Edge parent, asked about the percentage of increase in the operating budget for the 2016-2017 school year, the non-public nursing contracts with the River Edge Borough, pesticide treatment on the fields, and coordinating our school calendar to River Dell's calendar.

Stephanie Hartman, River Edge parent, asked about the budget and made a suggestion regarding the STEM Lab.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:10 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Mr. DiBella

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

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator