

# **RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

## **Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 2, 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, Roosevelt School, 711 Summit Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. Koth read the Mission Statement.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Ms. Dansky was absent

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION** - None

### **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Mrs. Cookson, River Edge resident, asked how many sixth grade classes will be at Cherry Hill School for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Ben-Dov answered her question.

#### **2016-2017 Budget Discussion**

Ms. Salvati presented the 2016-2017 budget updates from last week’s board meeting. She spoke about the operating budget, tax impact, the Special Revenue, and the Debt Service funds. She stated the preliminary adoption of the budget will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> and the Public Hearing will be on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Salvati and Dr. Ben-Dov answered any questions the board had on the budget.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the Board Members a glimpse of some of her walkthrough observations she conducted in our schools this week. First graders were learning about the book Unspoken. It's a book without words and just pictures and they were able to respond and demonstrate depth of knowledge as they answered questions. In third grade, during snack time, the teacher was implementing Response to Intervention (RTI). She pulled a small group of students and was working with them on specific skills where they needed reinforcement. The students were comparing, contrasting, and analyzing. Ms. Sarah Weeks went to both schools as a visiting author. She had assemblies for the students and had lunch with some of our students. She stimulated their thinking during lunch while making it real fun!
- Preparations for PARCC logistics are in progress. Median Student Growth Percentiles will be released at the end of March. Dr. Ben-Dov met with the principals to explain how Median Student Growth Percentiles were derived. She stated that the principals will meet with their teachers to discuss their Median Student Growth Percentiles.
- STEM explorations are continuing. Dr. Ben-Dov will visit Mt. Olive's school tomorrow afternoon to take a look at their program.
- Dr. Ben-Dov has been invited to many classrooms to read to the students for Read Across America. This will be streamed live for others to see.
- On Friday, a few Administrators attended a workshop called EdSurge that had to do with education and technology. There was an article about this workshop in The Bergen Record and Mrs. Heitman and Mrs. Rosen were pictured in it. Dr. Ben-Dov showed the article to the Board Members.
- There will be a Teacher of the Year selection committee on the afternoon of April 6th. Dr. Ben-Dov asked for a Board Member to represent the Board on this committee.
- Dr. Ben-Dov presented to the Board the invitation to attend the Eagle Scout ceremony on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two boys will be honored as Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 184.
- Odyssey of the Mind was held at Oradell School for grades seven and eight. Dr. Ben-Dov was very happy there was strong representation from River Edge Schools.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Starcase was last Friday for Roosevelt School. There was a total of 45 acts. Mr. Henzel stated everyone did a great job and he offered a special thanks to Mrs. Silane for all of her hard work.
- There are a couple of activities going on for the month of March. The Physical Education Team is doing a March Madness of their 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, Pi digits contest, and awarding of the "PiPlate."

- Today is Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Day. Mr. Henzel read a book to Mrs. Aday's class to celebrate. Also, on Discovery Ed, teachers signed their classes up to take part in a reading called Going Places.

**BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve our participation in the insurance group NESBIG for the next three years
- The River Edge police department recommended removing the grass from the area between the sidewalk and the curb at Roosevelt School and to replace it with concrete. They suggested it for safety reasons for student drop off and pick up when there is snow on the ground.
- Ms. Salvati reported that Mr. Sim received information from a vendor at the NJSBA Fall Convention regarding specialty lighting for students with disabilities. The vendor came to our school to give a presentation on the lighting and will give us 50 free LED lights for one classroom to sample.

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers reported on a Bi-Borough Committee that was newly created. The committee members will be Ms. Dansky, Mr. Sim, and Mrs. Myers. She chose one member from Personnel and Management and one member from Curriculum and Instruction. They will meet on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 PM at Oradell Public School.

**COMMITTEES**

Mr. Busted stated there was a Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting tonight before the Board Meeting. He stated Ms. Diminich attended this meeting. Some of the topics they discussed were Bi-Borough curriculum and assessment, Math and Science curricula, and report cards.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of January 20, 2016.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	February 18, 2016 Fire Drill February 25, 2016 Lockdown
Roosevelt School	February 1, 2016 Fire Drill February 25, 2016 Lockdown

3. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
2224	Non-Discrimination/Affirmative Action
6142.12	Career Education
5141.22	Medical Marijuana

4. **WHEREAS**, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Group as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;

**WHEREAS**, said Group was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

**WHEREAS**, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance Group contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Group, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of River Edge has determined that membership in the **NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP** is in the best interest of the District;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Education of River Edge does hereby agree to renew membership in the **NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP** and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Group as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

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

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

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

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** - None

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education accept the donation of one Chromebook Cart by the Cherry Hill PTO valued at approximately \$7,119.86.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education accept the donation of two Chromebook Carts by the Roosevelt PTO valued at approximately \$14,239.72.

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

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

Nays: None

**E. PERSONNEL**

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

**Cherry Hill**

Christopher Armen

Deborah Auriemma

Michelle Baragona

Kaitlyn Burke

Maryann Crudello

Emma Halik

June Karpowich

Ashley Cannata

**Roosevelt**

Whitney Castellvi

Lauren Della Torre

Wendy Otis

Nichol DelRosso

Beth Unanue

Abby Burns-Paterson

Colleen Poole

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Assistant School Principal.  
(Addendum)

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

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

Nays: Mr. Busted

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None**

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** That the River Edge Board of Education desires to enter into shared services agreements and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2016 - 2017 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Dr. Tova Ben-Dov, Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V.

The Board further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for non-public school services; and The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for other services as requested to be provided by Region V component districts on as needed basis.

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

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

Nays: None

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. DiBella spoke about his view on public feedback on the 2016-2017 school budget.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:30 PM made by Mr. DiBella and seconded by Mr. Koth

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator