

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 20, 2016 – 7:30 PM**

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Multi-Purpose Room, 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**

Mr. Koth read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Ms. Dansky; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers; and Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Kuruc and approximately ninety members of the public.

Mr. Busteed was absent  
Ms. Danahy was absent  
Mr. DiBella was absent

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comments on Agenda Items-None

**Honor Teachers of the Year**

Congratulations to: Kelly Wendrychowicz - Cherry Hill School  
Leigh Anne Kaufmann - Roosevelt School  
Angel Linton – New Bridge Center

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed everyone to our Teacher of the Year ceremony. She stated this is a pleasant and joyous event. She explained the process through which the teachers are selected for this achievement. She congratulated the three Teachers of the Year and had each of them come up to accept the honor.

Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Ms. Rosen, and Mrs. Kuruc congratulated each of the teachers they supervised on the honor of being named Teacher of the Year and spoke about their contributions to the district. The Board of Education presented flowers, a Golden Apple, and a certificate to each teacher. In addition, the PTOs, students, and the REEA presented the teachers with flowers and a gift card. The teachers thanked everyone and spoke about their teaching experience in River Edge.

**Motion by: Ms. Danksy Seconded by: Mr. Koth** to authorize \$500.00 each to Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School, and New Bridge Center for the Teacher Recognition Award for the 2015-2016 school year, to be spent at the discretion of each Teacher of the Year for the benefit of the school.

Ayes: Ms. Danksy, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers  
Nays: None

### **Special Education Update – Rosemary Kuruc**

Mrs. Kuruc gave the board members an update on our in-house Special Education programs. She also reported on SEPAG (Special Education Parent Advisory Group). She stated she reached out to parents at Back to School Night and did a paper and digital survey. She reported the goals and areas of concern of the parents to the Board. She also spoke about training for both part time and full time aides and teachers and the status of the Building Bridges programs and enrollment.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- PARCC administration was concluded for grades three and four today. There was a small technical difficulty in both schools during testing. The issues were with the company and not with the district. Most districts had to stop and then resume testing but the problems in River Edge were relatively minor and testing continued.
- River Edge C.R.E.A.T.E. (Children of River Edge in Academically Talented Education) students are working on a district-wide recycling program. Roosevelt fifth graders wrote to the Mayor and Council regarding recycling bins in the parks.
- Arbor Day ceremonies are taking place in both schools on April 29<sup>th</sup> along with the dedication ceremony of Cherry Blossom Park, adjacent to Cherry Hill School.
- The River Edge Fun Run will take place this Saturday, April 23rd. Many teachers volunteered. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked, in advance, all who are participating in this event.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- A visitor will come and speak to the sixth grade students and teach them about Ellis Island before they go on their field trip
- Mrs. Heitman is very proud of the wonderful virtual visit with the author Ms. Sara Weeks. The students had a great time working on their padlets and critiquing her book as per her request. There is an article on her visit in the April 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Town News.
- Building Bridges and Building Connections are having a fundraiser for the next two weeks. They are selling puzzle pins, stickers, pencils, bracelets, and puzzle picture frames. The money will go towards their class trips.
- The Cherry Hill School book fair and art show will be on April 27th
- Fifth and sixth grades will start PARCC testing tomorrow

**BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati did not make a report.

**PRESIDENT**

- Mrs. Myers will meet with the sixth graders next week to talk about the Student Board Meeting that will take place on May 25th
- Mrs. Myers will meet with the Mayor next week to continue their discussion on the community
- The River Edge Fun Run will take place this Saturday
- Mr. Koth will attend the Eagle Scouts Ceremony on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Mrs. Myers stated a Delegate Assembly volunteer is needed
- The Public Hearing is on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- The Student Board Meeting will take place on May 25th

**COMMITTEES**

No committees reported at this meeting

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of March 16, 2016.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for April 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB reports previously reported at the April 6, 2016 Board Meeting.
4. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

Policy #	Title
4112.8/4212.8	Nepotism

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

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Mr. Koth, 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 April 2016 totaling \$541,865.12 including checks #38365 through #38445. Payrolls dated March 15, 2016 and March 31, 2016, totaling \$1,084,121.29, 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 February 29, 2016. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending February 29, 2016.

Further, we certify that as of February 29, 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)

**Motion by: Ms. Dansky, Seconded by: Mr. Koth**

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

Nays: None

**E. PERSONNEL**

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

**Cherry Hill**

Deborah Auriemma  
Ashley Cannata  
Emma Halik  
Christine Moran  
Reem Halabi

**Roosevelt**

Abby Burns-Paterson  
Lauren Della Torre  
Ashley Denn  
Colleen Poole  
Heather Rothschild  
Leah Taylor

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Disability Leave of Absence for Nancy Davis to commence on September 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

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

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

Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Nancy Davis, Roosevelt School Nurse, effective October 1, 2016.

**Motion by: Ms. Dansky, Seconded by: Mr. Koth**

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

Nays: None

4. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Gianna Kozlowicz, ABA Aide, effective April 29, 2016.

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

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

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

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2016 totaling \$986,504.88 including checks #65956 through #66126.

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

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

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Dansky spoke about the Second Chance Toy Collection and paper shredding to be held on April 30th.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A letter was read by MaryAnn Crudello regarding June Court Steps.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session at 9:30 PM.  
All Ayes

### **RECONVENE**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Koth to reconvene the regular public meeting at 10:00 PM.  
All Ayes

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Koth to adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:00 PM.  
All Ayes

Meeting Adjourned