

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – September 16, 2015

7:00 PM Public Meeting

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the New Bridge Center Project Room, Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Dansky called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. DiBella read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:45 PM
Mr. Busted arrived at 8:55 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

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed the new staff to the River Edge School District. Each staff member introduced themselves and stated a fun fact about themselves.

Julia Amaya– District-Part-time Spanish Teacher
Julie Bernhard– Cherry Hill School Leave Replacement-2nd Grade Teacher
Ashley Cannata – Cherry Hill School -5th Grade Teacher
Ashley Denn– Roosevelt School – 3rd Grade Teacher

Gina Forte– Roosevelt School- Speech Language Therapist
Nancy Hafers– District-Part-time Gifted and Talented Teacher
Michael Henzel-Roosevelt School-Principal
Alyson Herrick– Roosevelt School Leave Replacement-2nd Grade Teacher
April Kaiser– Cherry Hill School Leave Replacement-5th Grade Teacher
Maria Jimenez-District-Part-time Bus Driver
Gregory Kupchak– Roosevelt School –Physical Education Teacher
Mariana Marinich– Cherry Hill School-Part-time ESL Teacher
Michael Masangcay– District Technology Assistant and Webmaster
Ryan Schmid-Cherry Hill/Roosevelt School- Physical Education Teacher
Susan Schwenker-Cherry Hill School-Resource Teacher
Kelly Scibilia-District-Literacy and Social Studies Coach and Instructional Supervisor
Adrienne Spano-District-Math/Science Coach and Instructional Supervisor
Courtney Sweet- Cherry Hill School Leave Replacement-Part-time Resource Teacher
Audrey Traynor-Roosevelt School-Part-time Clerical Aide
Kelly Zacher-Roosevelt School-Music Teacher

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- The 2015-2016 school year had a great opening. It went a lot smoother than other years. Dr. Ben-Dov has received great feedback from splitting the Kindergarten this year into each home school. There is new technology in the hands of the teachers and Dr. Ben-Dov read a thank you letter from a teacher thanking the board for this new equipment.
- Our Bi-lingual waiver for this school year was approved. One of the reasons it was accepted was the fact that the Kindergarten classes are in different buildings this year. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Ms. Monica Schnee who wrote the waiver and who coordinated our ESL activities.
- On the evening of Thursday, October 1st there will be an ELL Meeting (English Language Learners) planned by Ms. Schnee.
- On our District website, there is a New Jersey Common Core State Standards Review Survey requested by the Department of New Jersey. Dr. Ben-Dov stated that the Department of Education is asking for input. You can find this survey under District Information.
- Enrollment has been steady since the September 2nd Board Meeting. The only closed grade is Grade 3 in Cherry Hill School.

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated she is grateful for the contribution from REEF for the literature needed for our Multi-Culturalism Awareness theme. She also stated that Mr. Ray Gant is leaving as President for REEF. The organization is having a hard time attracting members. She asked the board for their input on how to recruit members.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the board an update on Go Math. She needs to go over the criteria for evaluating the program with teachers and then she would like to share it with the board at the October 21st board meeting.
- We are working on our final numbers for each grade level for Post-Dismissal Instructional Academy. We added more teachers at Cherry Hill School. We also added a Wednesday class. There is an orientation meeting with the teachers tomorrow. Dr. Ben-Dov is hoping to send letters to parents by September 25th.
- Dr. Ben-Dov asked Mrs. Salvati to update the board on the status of our Title 1 funds. She said we were initially told by the Department of Education that both schools would receive funds, but after working through the software, it turns out only Cherry Hill will be eligible. She described the various factors that impacted each school's eligibility.
- There was a meeting with the new PTO Leadership today at 4:00 PM. She had a great meeting with them and discussed several topics of collaboration between Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- The 2015-2016 school year had a great opening. The traffic and arrival of the students seems to be very smooth. The Kindergarten teachers appreciate the benefit of the additional time for instruction for their students.
- The District hired a new Bus Driver and the routes are going very smoothly.
- Many parents attended our Welcome Back Tea Meeting held on Thursday, September 3rd. There was a nice attendance for this meeting.
- The first PTO meeting of the 2015-2016 school year will be held on Friday, September 18th at 2:00 PM.
- Roosevelt and Cherry Hill both had brief announcements regarding the events of September 11th.
- Back to School Night for both schools will be on Thursday, September 24th.
- Picture Day will be on September 25th for Roosevelt School and September 30th for Cherry Hill School.

- Cherry Hill School is working on Week of Respect and is placing emphasis on Multicultural Awareness.
- Mrs. Heitman thanked the Board of Education for the teacher laptops.
- On Monday, September 28th there will be a meeting for parents to attend for ELL for the ACCESS test.
- On Monday, September 21st there will be a meeting with the police on how to address incidents for staff and administrators.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- The Roosevelt steps are installed and look great, though there needed to be a change in the downspout and drainage with the new installation. The welder came and fixed the problem and the water is now draining properly.
- Mrs. Salvati asked the board for their attendance on the NJSBA Fall Conference. The deadline for refunds is October 14th.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers and Dr. Ben-Dov reviewed the Board Self-Evaluation together. After reviewing, Mrs. Myers asked the board if they were interested in having a Board Retreat. There was a positive response from the board members in attendance.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. DiBella asked the board members if they would like to meet with the Mayor and Council on any matters.
- Mr. Sim stated there will be a Korean Festival on Saturday, September 19th at the Public Library.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for September 2015 including relevant mileage reimbursement.
(Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the list on file in the district office of pupil records maintained in the district for the 2015-2016 school year. (Addendum)

4. That the Board of Education accept the District Nursing Services Plan for the 2015-2016 school year.
5. That the Board of Education approve the School Self-Assessment for Determining HIB Grades for the 2014-2015 School Year.
6. That the Board of Education approve the revised 2015 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Edge Elementary Schools and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

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

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

C. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the agreement for the River Edge Board of Education to provide Technology Services to the following Non-public Schools for the 2015-2016 school year:

St. Peter's Academy
Sinai School at RYNJ
Yeshiva of North Jersey
Stepping Stone Learning Center
New Beginnings at Grace Lutheran

2. That the Board of Education approve the following Bi-Borough Curriculum:

Technology Grades K- 6

3. That the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 school year attendance of specific students at Cherry Hill or Roosevelt School which is other than their customary neighborhood school, on file in the District Office.

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

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

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated August, 2015 totaling \$393,633.43 including checks #37630 through #37658.
2. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2015 totaling \$693,849.65 including checks #37659 through #37777.

3. Payrolls date July 15, 2015 and July 31, 2015 totaling \$424,050.86 and Payrolls dated August 14, 2015, August 28, 2015, and August 31, 2015 totaling \$520,682.51 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list to be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2015-2016 as of July, 2015. (Addendum)
5. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending July 31, 2015.

Further, we certify that as of July 31, 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 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: Ms. Danahy

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Stan Stevens, Cherry Hill and Mark Jentz, Roosevelt as Lead Custodians for the 2015-2016 school year, as per contract.
2. That the Board of Education designate Michael Henzel, Affirmative Action Officer, for the River Edge School District for the 2015-2016 school year.
3. That the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 for the 2015-2016 school year.
4. That the Board of Education approve Beth Rosen, Homeless Student Liaison, for the River Edge School District for the 2015-2016 school year.
5. That the Board of Education approve Rosemary Kuruc, Mental Health Liaison, for the River Edge School District for the 2015-20156 school year.
6. That the Board of Education approve Maria Pepe as the Primary Project Aide for the 2015-2016 School Year.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following Lunch Aides for the 2015-2016 School Year:

Cleo Perekupka, Roosevelt School, one (1) hour a day, five (5) days per week
Tracey Stone, Cherry Hill School, two (2) hours a day, five (5) days per week

8. That the Board of Education appointment Dr. Urian Kim, School Physician, from September 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015 at a cost of \$875.00.
9. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Gianna Apicella, Behavior Analyst and Instructional Supervisor, effective October 30, 2015.
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Allyson Isreal as an Administrative Intern, from September 30, 2015 to June 30, 2016, 3 days a week.
11. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Behavior Analyst. (Addendum)
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Mary Ellen Cameron, part-time health aide, for a maximum of 25 hours per week for the 2015-2016 school year.
13. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle I of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Cherry Hill

Michelle Baragona
Kismet Bohajian
Christine Moran

14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Ron Laxamana for student Clinical Experience to consist of 12 hours a week over 10 weeks to commence on or about September 28, 2015.
15. That the Board of Education rescind the appointment of Deborah Michels, Instructional Technology Coach, for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

Ayes: Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, 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 August, 2015 totaling \$50,406.47 including checks #64726 through #64877.
2. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2015 totaling \$468,628.55 including checks #64878 through #64963.

3. 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.

Laura Sylvia Audiologist
Trena Rauner Nonpublic Consultant
Karen Louk Nonpublic Consultant

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky mentioned a shredding truck will be available at Memorial Park on October 4th.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

That the Board of Education convened into closed session at 8:45 PM to discuss contractual matters.

Motion by: Mr. DiBella Seconded by: Mrs. Myers

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

RECONVENE

That the Board of Education reconvenes the regular public meeting at 9:25 PM.

Motion by: Mr. Busteed Seconded by: Mr. Sim

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

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of July 29, 2015.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None, Abstained: Ms. Danahy, Mr. Sim

E. PERSONNEL

- 16. WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") and the River Edge Education Association (hereinafter referred to as "REASA") have negotiated a successor Administrators and Supervisors agreement for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years; (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") and

WHEREAS, the REASA has, by a majority vote of its membership, ratified the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies and approves of the terms of the Agreement for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and, 2017-2018 school years, which is attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Agreement between the Board and the REASA.

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

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

Nays: None

CLOSED SESSION

That the Board of Education convene into closed session at 9:35 PM to discuss the Superintendents Evaluation.

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

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

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

That the Board of Education adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:30 PM.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers

Nays: None

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator