

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 18, 2017
6:30 PM Confidential Session
8:00 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

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

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Danahy; Mr. Herbst; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim, also present were Dr. Ben-Dov and Mr. Bellino. Mrs. Heitman and approximately 11 members of the public attended the Public Meeting.

Mr. Busteed arrived at 7:00 PM
Ms. Dansky arrived at 8:00 PM

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter Closed Session

That in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act the River Edge School District Board of Education shall conduct a closed session pursuant to the exceptions prescribed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 for the purpose of discussing:

A. Negotiations

It is anticipated that the length of time of this closed session will be ninety minutes and that action will be taken in public on agenda items after the closed session.

The minutes of the closed session will be released when the need for confidentiality in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 no longer applies.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session

Motion by: Mr. Busted Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

Voice vote all Ayes

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC MEETING

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items –None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

- Dr. Ben-Dov read the Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying report: As reported to the State, our reporting period 1 (September 1, 2016 to December 30, 2016) indicates no HIB incidents. We also received a high grade on our Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Our score was 76 out of 78 and it will be posted on the district website.
- There were two Parent Academy Presentations this month. One was held on January 10th and the other one was held on January 12th. The topic that was discussed on January 10th was A Parent Workshop: “Understanding Leveled Books for Children’s Independent Reading.” The topic that was discussed on January 12th was a Vocabulary Workshop to explain to parents our new Sadlier vocabulary program for grades 2-6.
- We have been working very closely with Oradell regarding our Bi-borough curriculum. All the administrators had ELL training on January 5th. There was a meeting on January 11th to discuss future goals and on January 13th they began to review phonic programs for grades k-2.
- Joe Bellino and I have a meeting tomorrow with the County for a Mid-year Budget Review
- There is a resolution on our revised agenda for the resignation of John Lyons, Supervisor of Building and Grounds. John will be retiring after being with the district for 24 years. More will be said in the future, but we want to thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the River Edge School District.
- We have created a sub-committee for STEAM. The committee met today. They spoke about curriculum, equipment, materials, and professional development.
- REEF is offering educational mini grants to teachers this year. They will review them on February 13th.

- There was a Cherry Hill PTO meeting held on January 12th. Mrs. Heitman presented the Cherry Hill School PARCC results for 2016. Mr. Henzel will give his results in February at his PTO meeting. They also discussed parking. Dr. Ben-Dov presented the background of the parking situation, statistics reflecting needs versus availability of parking, and an integrated approach of lobbying the Mayor and Council for parking provisions while also considering the building of a parking lot. She also discussed improvements and modifications to the infield at Cherry Hill School that were requested by the Recreation Department. These modifications that include reducing the size of the diamond and improving its quality will, according to the Recreation Department, be more appropriate for the age and the skills of the students using the field. Questions were asked and proposals were made by the public. Dr. Ben-Dov stated they would discuss and explore all viable suggestions that were made at this meeting.
- The Eleventh Annual Young Artists Exhibition will be held at the River Edge Cultural Center from January 31st to February 18th. The snow date will be February 1st.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Stephanie Hartman, River Edge Resident, spoke about the parking issue and stated it is a town wide problem.

Beth Chinigo, River Edge Resident, stated she does not want to take away from our fields for a parking lot.

Suzanne Byrne, River Edge Resident, asked if the board can keep the public notified on what they decide with the parking lot.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Today we experienced a wonderful Winter Wonderland presented by our Kindergarten students. It was well attended.
- We are working on Kindergarten registration at both schools. We are trying to have parents upload as much information online using our Genesis portal.
- Mrs. Heitman has shared PARCC results with her PTO on January 12th at the PTO Meeting
- Cherry Hill School will have its Spelling Bee on January 25th at 2 PM
- This Friday will be a Day of Acceptance for the district
- On February 6th, there will be a benefit concert to kick off both International Days. The funds raised will go to the Instrumental Music program. Cherry Hill School International Day will be held on February 9th.

BOARD SECRETARY

- Mr. Bellino received notice yesterday that the state budget program is available today. The budget calendar should be available soon. He is planning on having more concrete information at the February 1st board meeting.
- Mr. Bellino informed the board about the costs to use a service called Strauss Esmay. This service helps districts with their policies. There was discussion about different ways to receive policy updates. This topic may be added for discussion and exploration at the board retreat.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers met with the Mayor last Monday night to continue their efforts for open communication between the mayor's office and the Board of Education
- Mrs. Myers has a meeting with the Mayor, Dr. Ben-Dov, Recreation Department, and Building and Grounds Supervisor on February 1st to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.
- April 1st is the date for the board retreat

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of December 21, 2016.

Motion by: Mr. Busteed Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

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

Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for January 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education approve the Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying Report and HIB Training Report for Reporting Period 1 (July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016).
5. That the Board of Education approve the Corrective Action Plan for the 2016 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the Participation Rate of the subgroup of Students with Disabilities.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Danahy, Mr. Herbst, 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 approve the bills & claims dated January 2017 totaling \$457,087.85 including checks #39374 through #39467. Payrolls dated December 15, 2016 and December 23, 2016, totaling \$1,160,335.00 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 2016-2017 as of November 30, 2016. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending November 30, 2016.

Further, we certify that as of November 30, 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: Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Danahy, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers
Nays: None

4. That the Board of Education approve a donation from Joy and Jan Holmstrup to be used towards the purchase of children books for the mobile cart in memory of Erika Steinbauer in the amount of \$150.00.
5. That the Board of Education approve a donation from Jan Holmstrup to be used towards the purchase of children books for the mobile cart in memory of Erika Steinbauer in the amount of \$70.00.

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

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following River Dell High School students to intern one day per week as part of a School Sponsored Structured Learning Experience to commence on or about February 7, 2017 through June 13, 2017.

Kerri Bartnicki
Talia Louda
Jasmine Song

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Courtney Sweet, Leave Replacement Teacher, MA step 1, with revised dates to include December 14, 2016 and extended through April 28, 2017.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Gianna Kozlowicz, Leave Replacement Teacher, BA+15, Step 1, revised dates to include December 23, 2016 and extended through June 30, 2017.

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

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

4. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of John Lyons, Building and Grounds Supervisor, effective July 1, 2017.

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

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

5. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle III of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2016-2017 School Year at the REBOE/REEA CBA hourly rate:

Cherry Hill

Michelle Baragona
Kristen Corcoran
Kaitlyn Devasto
Christine Moran
Katie O'Reilly
Andrea Siclari

Roosevelt

Caroline Church
Lauren Guida
Colleen Poole
Abby Burns-Paterson
Leah Taylor

6. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Tracey Stone, Lunch Aide, effective January 27, 2017.
7. That the Board of Education approve the following individual for movement on the step guide effective February 1, 2017 based on educational credentials.

Elizabeth Taylor Fox from MA+15 to MA+30

Motion by: Mr. Busted Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Danahy, Mr. Herbst, 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 January 2017 totaling \$785,058.95 including checks #67423 through #67576.
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 2016-2017 school year.

Mary Jo Mule Simeone Speech and Language Specialist

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Christine O' Keefe, River Edge Teacher, discussed the parking needs at Cherry Hill School.

Vito Acquafredda, River Edge Councilmen, announced he will be the liaison for this calendar year. He also addressed the parking concerns.

Beth Chinigo, River Edge Resident, discussed the online registration for Kindergarten this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Busted to adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:02 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Joseph Bellino
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator