

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 4, 2017 – 7:30 PM

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

Mr. Bellino called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Herbst read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mr. Busteed; Ms. Dansky; Mr. Herbst; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mr. Bellino, Mr. Henzel and approximately nine members of the public.

Ms. Danahy arrived at 8:10 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

REORGANIZATION

Certification of Election Results – November 8, 2016

Mr. Bellino reported on the official results of November 8, 2016 election.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Total Votes Cast</u>
Paris Myers (3 Year Term)	1,822
Caleb Herbst (3 Year Term)	975
Michael Koth (2 Year Term)	2,135

Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

The Board Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Trustees elect Paris Myers, Caleb Herbst, and Michael Koth.

2017 Board of Education and Expiration of Terms of Offices

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Expiration of Terms</u>
Cathy Danahy	2017
Sheli Dansky	2017
Colin Busteed	2018
Gyuchang Sim	2018
Michael Koth	2018
Paris Myers	2019
Caleb Herbst	2019

Nomination and Election of President

Motion by Ms. Dansky to nominate Paris Myers as Board President.

Roll call was taken and Paris Myers was unanimously elected Board President.

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

President, Paris Myers assumed the Chair.

Nomination and Election of Vice-President

Motion by Ms. Dansky to nominate Gyuchang Sim as Vice-President.

Roll call was taken and Gyuchang Sim was unanimously elected Vice-President.

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

REORGANIZATION MOTIONS

1. Meeting Time & Location

That the Board of Education continues to hold regular public meetings at 7:30 p.m. as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
January 4, 2017	Roosevelt School
January 18, 2017	Cherry Hill School
February 1, 2017	Roosevelt School
February 15, 2017	Cherry Hill School
March 1, 2017	Roosevelt School
March 15, 2017	Cherry Hill School
April 5, 2017	Roosevelt School
April 19, 2017	Cherry Hill School

May 3, 2017	Roosevelt School
May 17, 2017	Cherry Hill School
June 7, 2017	Roosevelt School
June 21, 2017	Cherry Hill School
July 26, 2017	Cherry Hill School
September 6, 2017	Roosevelt School
September 27, 2017	Cherry Hill School
October 4, 2017	Roosevelt School
October 18, 2017	Cherry Hill School
November 1, 2017	Roosevelt School
November 15, 2017	Cherry Hill School
December 6, 2017	Roosevelt School
December 20, 2017	Cherry Hill School
January 3, 2018 (Reorganization Meeting)	Roosevelt School

FURTHER, provision is also made for closed meetings immediately following each regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel matters or any other private matters if necessary.

FURTHER, the Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to give at least 48 hours advance notice of all the aforesaid meetings, and said notice shall (a) be delivered to the municipal building and the post office; (b) be delivered to the Board's officially designated newspapers; (c) circulated in the School District; and (d) filed with the clerk of the Borough of River Edge, all as provided for the pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of the State of New Jersey 1975.

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

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

2. School Ethics

FURTHER, that the Board of Education abide by the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:12-21 et seq.

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

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

3. Parliament Procedure

FURTHER, that the Board of Education meetings be governed by parliamentary procedure of Robert's Rules of Order.

4. Official Public Notice Newspapers

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the *Suburban/Town News* and *The Record* as the Official Newspapers for the Board of Education until the next organization meeting.

5. Designation Board Secretary

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Joseph Bellino as Board Secretary until June 30, 2017.

6. Rules, Regulations and Policies

FURTHER, that all rules, regulations and policies adopted in previous years, and not rescinded by the River Edge Board of Education be continued in full force and effect until altered, amended, modified or repealed by other resolutions of this Board.

7. Curricula

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve all current curricula and programs that have been developed in accordance with NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards the Common Core State Standards/New Jersey Student Learning Standards until the next organization meeting.

8. Mission Statement

FURTHER, that the Board of Education adapt the Mission Statement as follows:

The River Edge School District is a partnership of students, parents, staff, and community members. We are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which all students can reach their maximum academic potential, while developing as responsible citizens who respect individuality. Our goals will be achieved because:

- curriculum and instruction are aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards
- all decisions reflect the academic, social/emotional and physical needs of pre-K to sixth grade students
- cooperation and on-going communication exist between the school district and the community
- school administrators and the Board of Education work together to assess and adjust procedures in response to new mandates and the changing needs of the community

9. Designation of Depositories & Signature Authorizations

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the Capital One Bank as the depository for funds for the Board of Education.

FURTHER, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Treasurer of School Monies be authorized and directed to maintain accounts for and on behalf of the Board in Capital One Bank and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education official warrants be signed by three of the following five:

President, Vice President, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Treasurer of School Monies, Superintendent of Schools

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approves the designated signatures on the above accounts as outlined in the attached document.

10. Participation in Bergen County Banking Consortium

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the district's participation in the Bergen County Banking Consortium (BCBANC) and authorize the School Business Administrator to serve as a trustee until the next organization meeting.

11. Signature Authorization – Taxes, Payroll, Insurance

FURTHER, that the President or Vice President in his/her absence, and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator or Superintendent in his/her absence, and the Treasurer of School Monies, be authorized and directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board of the payment, when due, for salaries of all employees of the Board and for withholding taxes, pension funds, medical insurance plans, property insurance, Social Security and New Jersey Unemployment Insurance.

12. Office Account Signatures

FURTHER, that the Board of Education authorize the following individuals to approve the Petty Cash Reimbursements:

- Joseph Bellino, Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator
- Dr. Tova Ben-Dov, Superintendent of Schools

FURTHER, that the maximum allowable amount per warrant be established at \$125.00 providing all necessary claims are found to be in order according to law.

13. Designation of Board Auditor, and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Lerch Vinci & Higgins, as Board Auditor until the next organization meeting.

14. Designation Board Attorney

WHEREAS, the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the River Edge Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs, to provide professional services to the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education appoints the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., as the Board Attorney until the next organization meeting at the following rates: \$175.00 Partner and \$155.00 Associate.

15. Designation Board Architect

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate DiCara Rubino Architects, as Architect of Record until the next organization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175 Principal, \$165 Senior Associate Architect, and \$140 Project Architect/Engineer.

16. Designation Board Insurance Agency

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Brown and Brown Advisors of Lambertville, New Jersey as the Broker of Record for Dental Benefits.

17. Designation School District Consulting Physician

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Dr. Christopher Nicpon as Board School Physician until the next organization meeting.

18. Custodian of Public Records

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Joseph Bellino as Custodian of Public Records until June 30, 2017.

19. Designation 504 Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Tara Benevento as 504 Coordinator until the next organization meeting.

20. Designation Attendance Officer

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 until the next organization meeting.

21. Designation Homeless Student Liaison

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve Beth Rosen, Homeless Student Liaison, for the River Edge School District until the next organization meeting.

22. Designation District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Beth Rosen, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, until the next organization meeting.

23. Designation District Pest Management Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate John Lyons as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator until the next organization meeting.

24. AHERA Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Environmental Design, Inc. to become the designated party to ensure compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) until the next organization meeting.

25. Designation Treasurer of School Funds

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Antoinette Kelly as Treasurer of School funds until the next organization meeting.

26. Designate Purchasing Agent

WHEREAS, the recent changes to the Public School Contracts Law gave Boards of Education the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3A, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold: and

WHEREAS, A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the River Edge Board of Education in the County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey hereby establishes its bid threshold at \$29,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Joseph Bellino as the Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education.

- 27.** Move to authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to seek sealed bids, Educational Data Services, county contract, and/or state contract for all goods and services until the next organizational meeting.

28. Membership in Bergen County Region V

FURTHER, that the Board of Education continue its membership in the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education, does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V by-laws; designates the District Superintendent as its representative to Region V; and empowers her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interest in Region V; until the next organization meeting and

FURTHER, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V.

29. Tax Shelter Annuity Sales Companies

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve the following to solicit sales to district employees for 403b and 457 retirement plans for the 2016-2017 school year:

Aspire Financial Services
AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company
Security Benefit
Unum Life Insurance Company of America

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

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

Nays: None

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

2017 - 2018 School Calendar Discussion

Dr. Ben-Dov proposed a draft of the 2017-2018 school calendar to the board members. She said it is almost identical to River Dell's calendar. The difference between the calendars is caused by the fact that River Dell needs to hold graduation on Thursday, June 21, 2018. This is why they will have half day Professional Development days on October 9th and November 7th. Therefore, River Dell will end the school year on June 21st. River Edge will have full day Professional Development on those days and River Edge will end on Monday, June 25th. The board will consider this and will make a decision at the January 18th board meeting.

Parking Discussion – Dr. Ben-Dov

Dr. Ben-Dov gave a follow up on a possible solution to the parking challenges at Cherry Hill School. She showed a map of the surrounding areas of Cherry Hill School and showed pictures of the field and what a possible new parking lot would look like. She explained the reasons for the yellow lines around the school where parking is restricted. She then showed aerial views of the field with a superimposed parking lot and a reduced baseball diamond. She explained that the Recreation Department feels that the diamond needs to be redone and it would be more appropriate for the age of the students using the field. Many questions were asked by the board members that Dr. Ben-Dov answered. Dr. Ben-Dov was going to discuss this at an upcoming 2nd Cup of Coffee meeting at Roosevelt School and an evening Cherry Hill School PTO meeting.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- There are two Parent Academy Meetings coming up in January. One will be held on the evening of January 10th. The topic will be A Parent Workshop: "Understanding Leveled Books for Children's Independent Reading." We have 60 people that responded positively to attending this workshop. The second workshop will be held on January 12th at 3:30 PM. The topic will be Vocabulary Workshop to explain to parents our new Sadlier vocabulary program. Twenty people have responded positively for this workshop.
- Kindergarten registration will take place at Roosevelt School on Tuesday, January 24th and Thursday, January 26th at Cherry Hill School for the 2017-2018 school year. We will have an online pre-registration process for the parents. Dr. Ben-Dov hopes to know more about enrollment for 2017-2018 once parents start to register.
- Dr. Ben-Dov is hoping to have the architects come to a February board meeting to talk about the results of their study regarding the space challenges in our buildings
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated that budget discussions have begun internally and initial presentations will begin soon

- Dr. Ben-Dov and Joe Bellino have a meeting with the County for a Mid-year Budget Review on Thursday, January 19th. This is the first time that River Edge was requested to attend such a meeting.
- There have been discussions of graduation with the joint leadership of the PTO's. Roosevelt has 73 graduates and Cherry Hill School has 99 graduates. They are considering moving the graduation to another facility.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Second grade held their character day. Each second grader, as well as the teacher, dressed up in his or her favorite character. The students presented their favorite characters inside and outside traits and how they felt they related to the character.
- The Winter Concert was fantastic. It was a “coming out party” for both Mr. Urban and Ms. Caudra. They collaborated on the concert extremely well.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Bellino reported on the following:

- Mr. Bellino handed the board members and reviewed a list of actions that are required to a majority vote of the full membership of the board
- He stated the budget formation is moving along and should have a presentation ready for the board at a February board meeting

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers thanked the board members for re-electing her as the River Edge Board President

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky stated there was a Bi-borough Meeting tonight before the board meeting. They discussed the intention of what this committee is and where we will go from here. They also discussed the preliminary budget with shared personnel and curriculum.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of December 7, 2016.

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

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

Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth

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 completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Fire Drills	Security Drills
Cherry Hill School	December 13, 2016	December 19, 2016 Lockdown
Roosevelt School	December 1, 2016	December 21, 2016 Lockdown

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

Policy #	Title
4112.2/4212.4	Certification
4412.4/4212.4	Employee Health
4112.6/4212.6	Personnel Records

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

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS - None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve the following individuals for movement on the step guide effective February 1, 2017 based on educational credentials.

Alice Buttery from MA to MA+15
 Kate Langan from BA+15 to MA

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for student Field Experience to consist of 25 hours of literacy exposure over a period of 13 weeks to commence on or about January 17, 2017 through May 5, 2017.

Sarah Bowbliss

3. That the Board of Education rescind the appointment of Lorena Ruiz, Leave Replacement Teacher, MA step 1, from February 8, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

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

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

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION -None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A River Edge Parent questioned why there is a Spelling Bee at Cherry Hill School and not at Roosevelt School. Mr. Henzel answered her question.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session at 8:59 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Busteed to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:24 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Joseph Bellino
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator