

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

***"Building Bright Futures Together"*  
Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – October 19, 2016**

**7:30 PM Public Meeting**

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Project 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**

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Ms. Dansky; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman and approximately 14 members of the public.

Mr. Busteed arrived at 7:40 PM  
Ms. Danahy arrived at 8:05 PM  
Mr. DiBella arrived at 8:40 PM

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

**Good News:**

Dr. Ben-Dov announced Sheli Dansky has been named the 2016 New Jersey School Board Member of the Year. Dr. Ben-Dov stated it is a huge honor and she doesn't know a more deserving person to win this award. Ms. Dansky will be honored at the NJSBA Fall Convention on October 25, 2016.

Dr. Ben-Dov also announced that a Cherry Hill Sixth Grader, Christopher Hums, was honored by the Mayor and Council on Monday night for saving a neighbor's life. The Mayor gave him a special award.

**Accept PTO Gifts for the 2015-2016 School Year:**

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the excellent gifts provided to the Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School and New Bridge Center by the PTO. She is grateful for all that the PTO has done for the students in all schools. Dr. Ben-Dov announced some of the categories of gifts, thanked the PTO on all of their hard work and volunteers, and stated the PTO's of the different schools are working very closely with each other which is beneficial for everyone.

## **NJ ASK Science and PARCC Results–Dr. Tova Ben-Dov and River Edge Educational Team**

Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Spano presented the results of the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science NJ ASK Results for the 2015-2016 school year. The information presented included three years of 4<sup>th</sup> grade testing and comparing different populations of students. They went over the District Factor Group (I), scale score means, proficiency summary, Roosevelt School compared to District Factor Group (I), Cherry Hill compared to District Factor Group (I), cluster means, trends observed in the 2016 NJASK Science results and how we are using this data. Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Spano, Ms. Scibilia, and Ms. Diminich presented the PARCC results for Spring 2016 and compared them to the Spring 2015 results. They went over the PARCC grade level participation rates, percentage of students who met or exceeded expectations in English Language Arts and Mathematics, PARCC grade level outcomes in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, two year comparison of grade level results, percentage of meeting/exceeding expectations in Mathematics and English Language Arts, two year comparison of same cohort students percentages of meeting/exceeding expectations in Mathematics and English Language Arts in Spring 2015 and Spring 2016. The results showed growth from 2015 to 2016 in most areas. The data analysis and improvement plan was presented. All questions from the public and board were answered.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

- Professional Development on October 10<sup>th</sup> was very successful. There were workshops on STEAM, technology, cyber bullying, critical incidents, and math training. There will be another Professional Development Day scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> with Oradell through Bi-borough.
- Parent visitation day was today. There was a good attendance for it. Dr. Ben-Dov needs to discuss with the administrators a better way for parent visitation to be implemented due to various challenges inherent in this day.
- Dr. Ben-Dov has been busy working on her District/Superintendent goals. For the Planning Goal - she met with Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Saxton regarding regionalization. They will inquire with their committee on what they can do. Dr. Ben-Dov also invited the architects to meet with her and the administrators so see some options that they can explore in each of the buildings. For the Special Education Review Goal - there will be a meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> to go over the monitoring for the Special Education goal.
- There have been six parent evenings so far this year: Community Outreach, Positive Behavior presentation, Back to School Night, ESL evening, Parent Technology meeting, and NJCAP Cyber Empowerment workshop.
- There was a great Second Cup of Coffee yesterday in the Roosevelt School STEAM Lab. The parents were able to get a hands-on experience of the lab.
- There was a meeting with the Mayor and a subcommittee that included Bobbi Conway which Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati attended. They spoke about the Interlocal Agreement.
- Report cards roll out will be for kindergarten and first grade only for the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period

## **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Week of Respect was October 3rd to October 7th. It went very well for both schools and many activities were planned.
- October 10<sup>th</sup> was a Professional Development Day and it was very successful
- Our PTO has been very busy with ice cream sales and planning for the Boo Bash and the mini Boo Bash. They also are offering mini grants for teachers.
- School Visitation Day was today
- Our Student council is up and running and their first charity initiative is called "Table to Table." This will provide food for those in need. They are also working on their own "presidential election". It will be fun to see who they pick.
- Third grade is going on a class trip to the Sterling Mines this Friday
- The Halloween parades are scheduled for Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Roosevelt's will start at 1:10 PM and Cherry Hill's will start at 1:30 PM.
- Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Mr. Lyons, and Ms. Conway met on October 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the blackout dates for the basketball season for a smoother cooperation with the Recreation Department.

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

- The auditors came this week to start the financial part of the audit
- Some of the 2015-2016 school year surplus will be dedicated for facility improvements that need to be done

## **PRESIDENT**

- Mrs. Myers spoke to the field representative from School Boards to discuss the board retreat. They picked March 18<sup>th</sup> to have the retreat.
- Mrs. Myers congratulated Ms. Dansky on becoming the 2016 Board Member of the Year

## **COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Sim attended the REEF meeting on Monday night. They asked if the schools need any equipment for the STEAM Labs. They will also give grants for teacher projects.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for October 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
9250	Expenses and Reimbursements

3. That the Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 River Edge Purchasing Manual.
4. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

<b>Date</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Cost to District</b>
10/24/16	Roosevelt	2	River Edge Cultural Center River Edge, NJ	\$0

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

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

5. That the Board of Education approve the following Board Goals for the 2016-2017 school year.  
**Goal #1:** Assess and revise the committee reporting process to provide more in-depth information to whole board, including developing a committee meeting schedule for the year.  
**Goal #2:** In cooperation with the administration, develop a comprehensive facilities plan for the district.  
**Goal #3:** Plan and conduct a board retreat during the 2016-2017 school year.
6. That the Board of Education approve the following District/Superintendent Goals for the 2016 -2017 school year.  
**Goal #1:** Continue planning and preparation for potential enrollment increases by exploring some of the options listed below, as per enrollment projections and recommendations of an Educational Planner. Possible impact on student achievement, if applicable, should also be explored by June 30, 2017.  
**A.** Potential impact of reconfiguration of buildings to K-3 and 4-6.  
**B.** Potential impact of re-district residences that subscribe to the Roosevelt and Cherry Hill schools.  
**C.** Explore potential rental space from other community buildings.

D. Explore discussion and examine the impact with River Dell Regional and Oradell regarding potential consolidation; sending receiving (including Grade 6 to River Dell); and regionalization.

**Goal #2:** Complete a district-wide assessment of special education programs and develop a plan to optimize delivery of services to the River Edge special education population.

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

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

Nays: None

7. That the Board of Education approve the following School Goals for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Roosevelt School**

**Goal #1:** Students in grades 3-6 in Roosevelt School will improve vocabulary proficiency through comprehensive implementation of the Sadlier Vocabulary Program. Students in grades 3-6 will participate in vocabulary lessons and reinforcement activities on a regular basis. Appropriate accommodations for designated students will be implemented. A Sadlier vocabulary Workshop pre-assessment was administered to all students in grades 3-6 in the fall of 2016. By June of 2017 the average school score for grades 3-6 will increase by at least 15% on the Sadlier post assessment.

The baseline line data reflects an average school score of 52%.

**Goal #2:** All Roosevelt School students will use Meaningful Technology in the classrooms. Digital tools to access, collaborate, manage, evaluate, think critically, and synthesize information in a meaningful way will be used. Learners will be able to solve problems, collaborate, create, and communicate knowledge using tech tools. Students will use technology to connect to the global community and beyond to promote digital citizenship, social, and ethical responsibility. By June of 2017, 50% of observations /walkthroughs will note recommendations and /or commendations reflecting meaningful technology.

**Cherry Hill School**

**Goal #1:** Students in grades 3-6 in Cherry Hill School will improve vocabulary proficiency through comprehensive implementation of the Sadlier Vocabulary Program. Students in grades 3-6 will participate in vocabulary lessons and reinforcement activities on a regular basis. Appropriate accommodations for designated students will be implemented. A Sadlier vocabulary Workshop pre-assessment was administered to all students in grades

3-6 in the fall of 2016. By June of 2017 the average school score for grades 3-6 will increase by at least 15% on the Sadlier post assessment.

The baseline line data reflects an average school score of 48%.

**Goal #2:** All Cherry Hill School students will use Meaningful Technology in the classrooms. Digital tools to access, collaborate, manage, evaluate, think critically, and synthesize information in a meaningful way will be used. Learners will be able to solve problems, collaborate, create, and communicate knowledge using tech tools. Students will use technology to connect to the global community and beyond to promote digital citizenship, social, and ethical responsibility. By June of 2017, 50% of observations /walkthroughs will note recommendations and /or commendations reflecting meaningful technology.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mr. Koth, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim  
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 October, 2016 totaling \$770,611.71 including checks #39003 through #39139. Payrolls dated September 15, 2016 and September 30, 2016, totaling \$1,112,761.89 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending August 31, 2016.

Further, we certify that as of August 31, 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 over expended 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.

3. That the Board of Education accept the Roosevelt, New Bridge Center, and Cherry Hill Schools PTO Gifts for the school year 2015-2016. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education approve the appropriation of Extraordinary Aid and Non-public Transportation Aid into the General Fund for the 2016-2017 school year as follows:

Extraordinary Aid \$142,445  
Non-public Transportation Aid \$1,740

5. That the Board of Education approve a donation from REEF for the NJCAP Cyber Empowerment Program in the amount of \$1,673.00.

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

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

**E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Salvati, School Business Administrator, effective December 12, 2016.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a revision for Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Jessica Haynes commenced on September 16, 2016 through October 27, 2016, to be followed by a State Family leave of absence effective October 28, 2016 through January 27, 2017.
3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret the resignation of Jerry Chacko, Part-time Aide, effective October 19, 2016.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Francisco Benitez, Aide, for Cycle I of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2016-2017 School Year.

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

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

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

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated October, 2016 totaling \$720,850.37 including checks #66985 through #67126.
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.

Christine Dernbach-Bittler

Speech and Language Specialist

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

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

The president recommended that the monthly bills packet continues to be sent home to the finance committee.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mr. Gewirtz, River Edge Resident, recognized Ms. Fenarjian as a wonderful teacher for his children. He also spoke about the amount homework over the religious holidays and spoke about the amount of homework in the younger grades. He asked the board to evaluate whether it's worthwhile.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. DiBella, seconded by Ms. Danahy to convene into closed session at 8:55 PM.  
 All Ayes

**RECONVENE**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Koth to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:30 PM.  
All Ayes

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator