

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 7, 2016

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

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Danahy; Ms. Danksy; Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim.
Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mr. Henzel, and approximately three members of the public.

Mr. DiBella arrived at 7:35 PM
Mr. Busteed arrived at 7:40 PM
Mr. Koth was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Review 2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
Gary Higgins, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

Gary Higgins of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the districts audit report to the Board Members. There were no audit recommendations and he stated that the books are in very good condition. He commended the Board office for their great record keeping.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Special Education monitoring started yesterday. It lasted for two days and Dr. Ben-Dov had the exit interview today. The results we received were excellent. Only three out of 46 indicators need correcting and no financial findings were cited. Dr. Ben-Dov congratulated all that were involved and thanked them for all of their hard work.
- There was a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) on the evening of November 30th. Dr. Ben-Dov asked for questions in advance to the meeting and she only received four. She responded to the questions and spoke to parents taking comments and additional questions for 45 minutes. A workshop on the speech program followed.
- Dr. Ben-Dov and Rosemary Kuruc attended the Bergen County School Boards meeting on December 6th at the Holiday Inn in Hasbrouck Heights. The topic discussed was Special Education Law. Sheli Dansky was also honored at that meeting receiving a citation from the New Jersey Assembly and Senate for being selected Board Member of the Year.
- Report cards went out the week of Thanksgiving. We had new report cards for grades K-1 and Parent Portal for all grades. We also provided paper copies for the district. The feedback Dr. Ben-Dov received on the Parent Portal was that 50% of parents went online and looked at the portal. We want to make sure that all are comfortable with the Parent Portal before the next report card comes out. We are continuing with the roll out of new report cards for grades 2-6 but have come across some greater challenges to complete it this year. It will be tricky changing mid-year. We are planning on having the new report cards for grades 2-6 ready for next year.
- Mr. Bellino has started the transition with Ms. Salvati. His first official date as the Interim Business Administrator will be on December 13th.
- We had a very productive Technology meeting yesterday. The topics discussed were goals for the next three years, creating staff committees; Future Ready Schools, STEAM, and more.
- Teachers shared their best practices at their Monday faculty meetings. Dr. Ben-Dov was able to attend the Cherry Hill meeting and will attend Roosevelt's next meeting. It was very successful.
- Winter Concerts are taking place this month. Roosevelt's will be held on December 20th at 2:00 pm and Cherry Hill's will be held on December 21st at 1:45 pm. Cherry Hill School had a wonderful concert for the Senior Citizens on Monday December 5th.
- Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Ms. Salvati and Mr. DiBella for their dedication to the River Edge Board of Education and wished them both the very best.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Report card conferences occurred the week of Thanksgiving. They went smoothly. We opened the Parent Portal for the first time and they are able to view their child's report card online.
- Teachers shared their best practices with each other at a recent faculty meeting. It was so well received that Mr. Henzel got emails asking if teachers can present at a follow up meeting.
- Ms. Otis' class made ornaments for students who will be receiving dialysis this month. The idea is called "Deck and Dash." While the patient is receiving their dialysis treatment, the home of the patient is decorated for the holidays.
- We had a great author visit from Peter Brown at both schools. He made three presentations along with an illustration demonstration.
- Over the NJEA weekend, a former Roosevelt School student completed his Eagle Scout project at Roosevelt School. He raised the funds through a bake sale, purchased, and put together several tables including ADA tables. He also cleaned up the Pride garden and added mulch around the trees. Mr. Henzel thanked him for beautifying Roosevelt School.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati thanked the Business Office for a great job with the 2015-2016 record keeping and the excellent audit results
- A representative from Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP came to our district to do an analysis of our tuition based program
- Ms. Salvati thanked Dr. Ben-Dov and the Board Members for the wonderful opportunity she has been given to work here for the last three years

PRESIDENT

- Mrs. Myers met with the Mayor today to continue their efforts for open communication between the mayor's office and the Board of Education
- Mrs. Myers and Mr. Sim met with the Oradell Board of Education and Vice President in an effort to keep lines of communication open regarding shared services
- Mrs. Myers thanked Ms. Salvati for wonderful job as being the Business Administrator for the last three years and thanked Mr. DiBella for his outstanding service to the River Edge Board of Education for the last three years. She presented Mr. DiBella with a plaque.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Danahy spoke about the Finance and Facilities meeting that took place before the meeting. They discussed the new budget format for 2017-2018, the parking lot design at Cherry Hill School, the Long Range Maintenance Plan, and Title I.

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 December 2016 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

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

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 2, 2016.

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

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

3. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of November 16, 2016.

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

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	November 4, 2016 Shelter in Place November 14, 2016 Evacuation
Roosevelt School	November 7, 2016 Evacuation Drill November 18, 2016 Fire Drill

5. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
6/1/17	Roosevelt	6	Weis Center Ringwood, NJ	\$1,008.00

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

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1. That the Board of Education approve DiCara and Rubino to provide professional services for the planning and preparation of future enrollments at a cost not to exceed \$6,000 plus reimbursable expenses.
2. That the Board of Education approve Ross Harber to provide an updated Demographic Report at a cost of \$1,000.

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

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

Nays: None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the River Edge Board of Education accept the 2015-2016 Audit and approve the submission of the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) submitted by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins with the following recommendations:

- I. Administrative Practices and Procedures
None
- II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
None
- III. School Purchasing Program
None
- IV. School Food Services
None
- V. Student Body Activities
None
- VI. Application for State School Aid
None
- VII. Pupil Transportation
None
- VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets
None
- IX. Miscellaneous
None

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

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

Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Julie Rabinowitz as the District Liaison to the Board of the River Edge Public Library for the 2016-2017 school year.
2. That the Board of Education approve Katie O' Reilly and Reem Bowers for the Cycle II of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2016-2017 School Year.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Courtney Sweet, as a per diem Leave Replacement Teacher, MA step 1, from December 14, 2016 through January 27, 2017.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Courtney Sweet, as an ABA Aide, Step D, to commence on January 30, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

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

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

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education ratify the bills & claims dated November, 2016 totaling \$773,468.53 including checks #67127 through #67276.
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.

Patricia M. Carroll

Psychologist

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

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

Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DiBella spoke about his three years on the board and thanked his fellow board members for everything he learned from them.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION- None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 8:40 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Busted to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:35 PM.

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator