

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

6:30 PM Confidential Session (Review of non-tenured personnel)

7:30 PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 15, 2017

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.

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. Non-tenured Personnel

It is anticipated that the length of time of this closed session will be sixty 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: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Mr. Koth

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

Nays: None

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session

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

Voice vote all Ayes

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC MEETING

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Herbst read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were: Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, and Mrs. Myers. Also present Dr. Ben-Dov, Mr. Bellino, Mrs. Heitman, and two members of the public.

Mr. Busteed was absent

Mr. Sim was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION TO BE CONVENED AT THE END OF THE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Myers read the following:

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. Inter-local Agreement
- B. Bi-borough
- C. Residency
- D. Legal Matters-regarding an insurance claim and a student issue
- E. Negotiations

It is anticipated that the length of time of this closed session will be ninety minutes and that no action will be taken in public 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.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

2017-2018 Budget Discussion – Dr. Tova Ben-Dov and Joseph Bellino

Dr. Ben-Dov started the discussion with the principles of a good budget. Mr. Bellino stated this is the preliminary glimpse of the 2017-2018 budget. It is still a work in progress. There are two submissions of the budget, one in March and then again in May. There will be two additional meetings before the tentative budget goes to the county in March. The Public Hearing will be on May 3, 2017. There will be three parts of the budget: regular education, special education, and administration and technical support. Tonight Mr. Bellino presented a review of the current year budget and proposed budget for regular education. It is not yet known what state aid will be. We expect to have this information by the end of February. Mr. Bellino and Dr. Ben-Dov answered all questions asked by the board members.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov complimented the Custodial Staff and town on all of their hard work with the snow removal for both storms on February 9th and February 12th. She said they did a fabulous job with the cleanup.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated there is a new legal requirement which requires us to rice everyone whose name appears on an agenda for any reason at all even if there is no plan to discuss the employee. This information came to us from Stephen Fogarty's office.
- One of the district goals was to review the district's Special Education and make recommendations for improved delivery of services. As part of this goal teacher and aide surveys were administered. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Christine Moran for her help with this. The results were reviewed by Dr. Ben-Dov. A list of aide responsibilities was developed. There will be additional training and a manual will be created before the end of the school year.

- There are two Parent sessions coming up. One is scheduled for February 23rd in the New Bridge Center Project Room on Cyber-Empowerment Workshop for parents and the other one is scheduled for February 27th for new families of River Edge.
- There was a Town Emergency Council meeting on February 15th with the Mayor, Ron Starace, and representatives of various town agencies. They discussed channels of communications in emergency situations.
- Dr. Ben-Dov complimented Mrs. Heitman and the PTO's for a wonderful benefit concert at Cherry Hill School on February 6th. There were many people who attended and there was a high level of talent there. The concert was a "kick off" for International days and it will benefit the bands at both schools.
- There was a REEF meeting Monday evening. Dr. Ben-Dov and Adrienne Spano attended. They did not request the 3D printers yet, but did give an update on where they are on STEAM development. Teachers came to this meeting to give presentations for the educational mini grants that REEF is offering. REEF will inform the recipients who were selected in the near future.
- Teacher of the Year nomination letters were e-blasted to staff and parents today. Nominations are due to the board office by March 3rd. Dr. Ben-Dov asked a board member to volunteer for the committee meeting to select a winner. Mr. Herbst volunteered.
- Interviews will begin at the end of next week for the Building and Grounds Supervisor position. Dr. Ben-Dov will start looking for a Leave Replacement Secretary for the Business Administrator.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Cherry Hill School had a wonderful Benefits concert on February 6th. There were well over 200 people that attended. It was very well received. Mrs. Heitman thanked both PTO's for this great concert. The money raised will go to the band in both schools.
- The fourth graders had a Lenape Assembly on February 1st
- Jump Rope for Heart Health will be celebrated the week of February 13th
- There were parent information sessions on Access Testing on February 14th and 15th
- International Day will be celebrated on February 23rd during the day and a Cyber Empowerment Parent Workshop on the evening of February 23rd
- The Cherry Hill School talent show will be on March 3rd
- River Dell orientation for parents will be on March 1st
- Today was the 100th day of school and the kids had a blast celebrating it
- Valentine's Day celebrations took place in the schools on February 14th

BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Bellino had no report for this meeting.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- The Board Retreat will be on April 1st at the Clinton Inn in Tenafly
- Mrs. Myers met with the Mayor on February 7th to discuss the parking situation and Inter-local agreement.
- The Cherry Hill School Tricky Tray will be held on April 19th. That is the same day as our board meeting. Mrs. Myers asked the board if they would like to change the date of the board meeting. The board said yes and switched their meeting to Thursday, April 20th.

COMMITTEES

- Negotiations met last week with the Union Representative, Negotiator, and Stephen Fogarty. The meeting went well.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of January 18, 2017.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedule for February 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB report previously reported at the February 1, 2017 board meeting.
4. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
4/18/17	Roosevelt & Cherry Hill	6 Grade C.R.E.A.T.E.	National Museum of Math New York, NY	\$450.00
5/18/17	Cherry Hill	K	Bergen Performing Arts Center Englewood, NJ	\$1,063.75
2/16/17	Cherry Hill	2	River Edge Cultural Center River Edge, NJ	\$0
5/18/17	Cherry Hill	6	Liberty Science Center Jersey City, NJ	\$2,721.00
5/4/17	Roosevelt	1	Turtle Back Zoo West Orange, NJ	\$960.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 1, 2017.

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2017 totaling \$903,268.30 including checks #39468 through #39545 claims dated February 2017 totaling Payrolls dated January 13, 2017 and January 31, 2017 totaling \$1,099,044.78 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 December 31, 2016. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending December 31, 2016.

Further, we certify that as of December 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 overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Addendum)

4. That the Board of Education establish May 3, 2017 as the date for the official Public Hearing of the 2017-2018 School Year Budget.

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

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve \$3,500 compensation for Chris Armen, as Director of the 2017 summer enrichment Program.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Kathleen Salvatore, 5th Grade Teacher, effective July 1, 2017.

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

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

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Niddhi Mehta, Lunch Aide, in accordance with the Hourly Employee Salary Schedule, Step 1, for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve a River Edge Preschool student be placed out of district for the 2016-2017 school year in the Bergen County Board of Special Services Hearing Impaired Program in the Godwin School in Midland Park at a tuition rate of \$338 per diem plus transportation as needed.

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2017 totaling \$927,277.20 including checks #67577 through #67785.

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

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

Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Herbst spoke about the benefit concert he attended at Cherry Hill School on Monday, February 6th. He said it was a great night of music and thanked the PTO's, Mrs. Heitman, and all that were involved in making this event happen.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Koth, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session for the reason previously cited at 8:35 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Herbst, seconded by Ms. Danahy to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:40 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Joseph Bellino
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator