

## **RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

### **Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 1, 2017**

**7:30 PM Public Meeting**

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 7:35 PM.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

#### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

#### **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items** - None

#### **South Korean Education - Implications for River Edge School District Practitioners and Families**

Viewed through the Eyes of a Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Recipient- Monica Schnee

Ms. Schnee reported to the board members and members of the public on her experience as a Fulbright Scholar in South Korea for the last five months. She explained the differences between the South Korean and American school systems. She spoke about the implications of these cultural differences for Korean students who come to this country. She showed a slide presentation of her visit there. She was very grateful and thanked the board members for this opportunity.

#### **2017-2018 Budget Presentation – Dr. Tova Ben-Dov and Joe Bellino**

Mr. Bellino presented a review of the current year budget and proposed budget for the special education and administrative portion of the budget. He indicated that state aid numbers will be announced Thursday, and he believes it will be flat. He stated that he will review all three sections of the budget at the next board meeting. He also said we need to cut \$111,000 thousand from the budget. Dr. Ben-Dov, Mr. Bellino, and the administrators will sit together and look at the budget. The preliminary adoption of the budget will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> and the Public Hearing will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Bellino and Dr. Ben-Dov answered any questions the board had on the budget.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated a letter was sent to parents today requesting that all districts and communities provide feedback on the proposed New Jersey (ESSA) Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan. ESSA replaces the (NCLB) No Child Left Behind Act.
- Interviews for the Building and Grounds position have started. The first round is complete and we have two finalists moving on to the final round next week. We will also interview for the Secretary to the Business Administrator Maternity Leave Replacement tomorrow morning.
- Dr. Ben-Dov had a HIB Incident to report. It involved a Cherry Hill 5<sup>th</sup> grader who made verbal comments to another Cherry Hill 5th grader. It was investigated and found to be HIB related. The families were notified and action against the students took place. The student had to write a letter of apology and give a verbal apology, have sessions with the Pupil Assistance Counselor, and two days of recess detention.
- There was a Technology meeting today. Numerous items were covered: online resource services, STEAM, Google calendars, and usage of our website. Our next meeting will be in April.
- We had a new parent input meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We had both parents and staff attend this meeting. It was not greatly attended by parents, but was a meaningful meeting in terms of ideas on how the district can help new families adjust.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the board an enrollment update. She stated that Cherry Hill School enrollment is higher this year than last year at the same time and Roosevelt School kindergarten enrollment has increased and is very similar as last year's. It is therefore, premature to decide how many kindergarten classes would be in Roosevelt School for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Cherry Hill School's International Day was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great event with lots of activities for the students. Roosevelt will have their International Day on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Read Across America will be celebrated tomorrow
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated that a Personnel and Management Committee meeting is needed before the next board meeting

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel congratulated Whitney Castellvi and her husband on the birth of their baby boy
- Parent teacher conferences are next week. Conferences have been scheduled through the portal and parents can view their time slots on the new conference tab. On Monday, the report cards will be available for parents to view their child's report card online. Mr. Henzel thanked Mrs. Blute for all of her work on this. Dr. Ben-Dov also thanked Mr. Henzel and Mrs. Blute.

**BOARD SECRETARY**

Mr. Bellino reported on the following:

- Mr. Bellino reminded the board members that the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms are due to the county before April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers and Dr. Ben-Dov had a phone conference with Matt Lee regarding the board retreat. He will let them know how many hours this would count towards getting board certified.
- The Sixth Grade Board of Education Meeting will be held at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

**COMMITTEES**

Ms. Dansky stated there was a Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting tonight before the Board Meeting. Some of the topics they discussed were Special Education Policy, not renewing the Bi-borough curriculum agreement with Oradell, STEAM curriculum, and science curriculum.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 15, 2017.

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

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

Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Busted

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for March 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	February 6, 2017 Fire Drill February 17, 2017 Lockdown
Roosevelt School	February 8, 2017 Fire Drill February 14, 2017 Active Shooter

4. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policy:

Policy #	Title
6171.4	Special Education

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

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

Nays: None

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** - None

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS** - None

**E. PERSONNEL** - None

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

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. 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 R. Lazar	Psychologist
Ilana B. Schuchman	Speech and Language Specialist

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

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session.

Voice vote all Ayes

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. Personnel
- B. Bi-borough Update

It is anticipated that the length of time of this closed session will be approximately sixty 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Voice vote all Ayes

Joseph Bellino  
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator