

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 5, 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, Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were: Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Sim, and Mrs. Myers. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mr. Joseph Bellino and fourteen members of the public. Mr. Busted arrived at 8:00 PM.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

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

Dr. Ben-Dov reported we have submitted the budget and how it was very challenging since we needed to cut \$80,000 from the original budget. Individual budget items were read and discussed. As we are not renewing Bi-Borough curriculum office, it will be more expensive to have it in-house. STEAM program needs another \$15,000 to work with Liberty Science Center and other program expenses.

Mr. Bellino said that no decisions are being made tonight. Dr. Ben-Dov explained the budget will be discussed at the second part of the April 20, 2017 meeting as the first part will have 6th Graders conducting the meeting. At the time of budget submission, the administration allocated funds to priorities that have since developed, such as two new part-time Special Education teachers. One District Curriculum Coordinator and one full-time Business Administrator are included in the budget. Tax impact on average households is \$70.03 per year.

Dr. Ben-Dov stated it is the state’s recommendation to use waivers, if applicable. The enrollment waiver was the one for which River Edge qualified at this time.

Regarding capital outlay, Mr. Bellino recommended not doing large projects in the coming year. He made recommendations for smaller, important projects that will be reviewed again at the next staff meeting.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- PARCC Infrastructure Test was done on Monday and it was very successful. A letter was sent home to parents today regarding the PARCC schedule.
- School performance report on each school was made public on website and looked good in terms of achievement. A reporter from the Star Ledger called regarding attendance of Cherry Hill teachers; it was printed as 10%. It should have been 96.87% and was printed in error; hopefully, they will retract.
- Architects' report and presentation will take place on May 3. The demographer is having trouble with our enrollment numbers due to lack of consistency. He was told to use current enrollment and we will project into the future. The work with the demographer has been going on for weeks. The architects have to base their recommendations on his projections.
- Mrs. Heitman, Adrienne Spano, and Dr. Ben-Dov visited Wyckoff's STEAM project which is part of the Northern Ignite Initiative. There is much to be learned; it is to be determined if we are interested in their organizational model and how they developed their program.
- A HIB investigation report was undertaken for an incident that occurred on Friday, March 24. It was handled based on Code of Conduct as it was determined not to be in violation of the River Edge HIB policy. The student aggressor was being teased. Consequences included a letter of apology, the student receiving counseling by the teacher and Pupil Assistance Counselor.
- Cultural and artistic events: Friday March 31 was the Roosevelt International Day, April 4 was the Roosevelt Concert, and April 6 will be the Cherry Hill Concert. Many cultural events will take place in the weeks to come. Dr. Ben-Dov said that although there is no Principals' Report this evening, there will be extensive Principals' Reports on April 20 at the Students' Board Meeting.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel was not present; no report.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Bellino reported on the following:

- Personal financial statement need to be completed by four people. Due date is April 30.
- Financial reports were withdrawn from the last meeting and will be corrected going forward, as he is not ready to talk as to what went wrong. It is not an easy task as it is complicated. It has been corrected and will be presented at the April 20 meeting.
- Water testing has been completed and filters have been installed on all drinking fountains. We should have the report in 10-14 days.

PRESIDENT

- Mrs. Myers thanked the Board Members for attending the Saturday, April 1 Retreat. Several representatives were available for a wellness check on our Board. Feedback would be appreciated with self-evaluation.

COMMITTEES

No Committees reported at this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of April 5, 2017.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for April 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Myers, Mr. Sim
Nays: 0

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS – None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2017

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2017 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 districts financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year (Addendum).

2. That the Board of Education authorize the contract with Educational Data Services for services in connection with the cooperative bidding for supplies and other categories as mutually agreed upon for the 2017-2018 school year at a fee of \$3,040.00 (Addendum).
3. That the Board of Education authorize the contract with Educational Data Services for Cooperative Bidding Services for Cooperative Skilled Maintenance Trades for the 2017-2018 school year at a fee of \$1,990.00 (Addendum).
4. That the Board of Education approve a donation from the River Edge Education Foundation (REEF) Educational Mini Grants in the amount of \$5,620.66 (Addendum).

Motion by: Ms. Danahy **Seconded by:** Mr. Busteed

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Myers, Mr. Sim
Nays: 0

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2016-2017 School Year at the REBOE/REEA CBA hourly rate:

Cherry Hill

Kristen Corcoran
Ashley Cannata

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the paid medical leave of absence for Kismet Bohajian to commence on April 17, 2017 until a date to be determined but shall be no longer than through June 9, 2017.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following teachers for additional hours up to 3 hours per day beginning April 17, 2017:

Cherry Hill

Kathy Lee
Lucia Moran

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

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the lease extension from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2022 between Kamack Realty Corporation, as landlord, and Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge As Lead Agency for Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education, as tenant, dated November 30, 2007, as modified by Lease Modification and Extension Agreement dated April 29, 2012 (Addendum).
2. That Region V Council for Special Education / River Edge Board of Education and the School Districts of Bergenfield, Cresskill, Dumont, Hackensack, New Milford, Maywood, Oradell, River Dell, River Edge, Ridgefield, Rochelle Park, Teaneck and Tenafly approve a Joint Purchasing Agreement dated July 1, 2017 for independent contractors, supplies or materials (Addendum).

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

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Myers, Mr. Sim
Nays: 0

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Busteed attended a training on the use of defibrillators and found it very informative. Ms. Myers asked where will the REC defibrillators be located and was told it was up to the principals of each school.
2. Ms. Dansky attended the National School Boards Workshop in Denver recently, highlighting what we all have in common / not in common, important things going on nationally and brought back various reading materials for all. She attended presentations by Astronaut Scott Kelly, Ariana Huffington, Author Wes Moore ("I'm the Other Wes Moore"), and Incoming President Kevin Siyak, who spoke about Vision 20/30. She also attended various focus groups: a new Clorox cleaning system, STEAM individual panels - innovation lab, and a curriculum meeting on Mindfulness.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

1. Ms. Abigail Cordts asked Dr. Ben-Dov the date of the Roosevelt Art Show and was told it is the same date as the Cherry Hill Art Show, Thursday April 27.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Danahy 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. Legal.
- B. Bi-Borough.
- C. Negotiations.
- D. Personnel.

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

Board Adjourned to Closed Session – 8:34 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Danahy to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:45 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Joseph Bellino
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator