

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 3, 2017 – 6:30 PM

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

Mr. Sim called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Koth read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Busted was absent.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Koth, Seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 6:31 PM for the review of non-tenured personnel.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, Seconded by Ms. Danahy to reconvene the regular Public Meeting at 7:35 PM.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Public Comments on Agenda Items – none**
- B. District planning goal – Dr. Ben-Dov and Architects DiCara and Rubino**

Dr. Ben-Dov stated that no action will be taken by the Board at this meeting. As we prepare for possible increases in enrollment, the Board set a planning goal early in the year that needed to be explored and presented by June 30, 2017. There are four components to the planning goal:

- a. Potential impact of reconfiguration of buildings to Grades K-3 and Grades 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.

For Item d: Dr. Ben-Dov reported that administrative level discussions were held with Pat Fletcher (Superintendent of River Dell) and Paul Saxton (Interim Superintendent of Oradell). It was agreed to explore a possible move of 6th grades if both towns were interested which would require a referendum for River Dell. Bi-Borough met with the Board Members of River Edge and Oradell represented. Oradell has no enrollment challenges and, therefore, no interest in discussing this option. Dr. Ben-Dov also explored the academic impact on Middle Grade configuration.

The Architects requested a new five-year Demographic Study. They worked with the Demographer, Dr. Ben-Dov, and the Principals to explore Options A-C. A new Demographer's Study was created, but there was a problem. Our actual enrollment for Grade K for 2017-2018 was greater than the live births on which the Demographer's Study is based, so it had to be redone.

Anthony Denorchia, the former Superintendent of Hillsdale, who works for the Architectural firm of DiCara and Rubino, presented his findings:

- a. Re: current grade alignment in schools, how will future enrollments impact classes regarding space?
- b. What if we moved attendance lines and moved the central office out of Cherry Hill, how much space is gained and what is the cost?
- c. He looked not only at Grades K-3 in Cherry Hill and Grades 4-6 in Roosevelt, but at various grade level configurations as well.

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke of The Princeton Plan which was developed in 1948 and created ethnic diversity by grouping students by grade level, not by geographical location. Today, most such plans are done for efficiency and cost savings. Pro's and con's were discussed in general about various grade level configurations, but the Board did not review any of the plans at the meeting. The public had a few questions. The Board thanked everyone for coming and Dr. Ben-Dov and the Architects for the presentation and statement. There will be more discussion of options at future meetings.

C. Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Proposed School Budget

Mr. Bellino reported on budget comparisons, year to year. The Board reviewed and approved the submission of the Final 2017-2018 Budget which included use of the Enrollment Adjustment and an increase in withdrawal from Capital Reserve.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Thank you to all teachers as next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. The Teacher of the Year Meeting and Reception is coming up on May 17th. A huge Thank You for your dedication and inspiration to our students!
- Thank you to all Administrators and Staff for everything they did during Mr. Henzel's leave (Denise Heitman, Beth Rosen, Abby Patterson, Claudia Levis, and our Technology Team). Roosevelt School functioned beautifully!

- PARCC: Thank you to our Technology Staff! Testing for Grades 3-5 was finished last week, and most make-ups are finished. Grades 5-6 are tested this week and next week. Dr. Ben-Dov heard an anecdote from students re PARCC testing: "We liked it, so we're sad it's over because now we have homework again!" Dr. Ben-Dov received a note from a teacher that students wanted to discuss passages in literature from the test when the testing was finished.
- Art Shows in both schools: There is a new Art Teacher in Cherry Hill School and a veteran teacher in Roosevelt School, and both did innovative projects with the students. The Art Shows were well attended in both schools.
- Ms. Lindsey's Grade 5 class in Roosevelt placed very highly in the Stock Market Game . They were not able to go to Jersey City, but they are invited to receive an honorable mention at the next Board meeting.
- We have a resolution today to appoint Mrs. Louise Napolitano to start July 1 as School Board Administrator/Board Secretary. Mrs. Napolitano responded "Thank you for the opportunity".

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Ms. Attardi did an amazing job at last week's art show. Ms. Attardi ensures that there is at least one piece of artwork by each student in the schools. That is a lot of art! The art pieces will be on display through open house later this month.
- On Friday, May 5th, the Roosevelt School PTO will be sponsoring a Walk to School Day. Students will meet up at Memorial Park and form a walking school bus in the morning. The River Edge Police Department will also be present for street crossings as well as walking with the students to school. If the weather looks grim, then we will postpone it.
- Thursday, May 4th will be the last day of ELA PARCC for grades 5 and 6. Grades 3 and 4 are complete and the last make-ups for Grades 3 and 4 were completed Wednesday, May 4th. Friday, May 5th will present as a mini-break from PARCC for the students and we will resume testing the math sections on Tuesday, May 9th.
- Finally, I just wanted to publicly thank all the people who stepped up in my absence. To Tova, Abby and everyone else who chipped in, Thank You!!!

BOARD SECRETARY - None.

PRESIDENT

- Mrs. Myers reported she received a letter from Edward J. Mignone on behalf of new Eagle Scouts in Troop 184 (Christopher Zaccaro and Andrew Lee), with an RSVP to the Sunday, May 21st event at St. Peter Academy/St. Peter the Apostle Parish.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. Herbst reported he attend the I-STEAM NASA Field Trip at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD on April 28th and thanked the Board for this opportunity. He was given a tour of the James Webb Space Laboratory and met with top NASA engineers in different fields towards our goals with I-STEAM.
- Mr. Koth thanked Dr. Ben-Dov for doing the legwork with Architects DiCara and Rubino found her presentation very comprehensive. Mr. Koth also thanked the audience for coming, saying the contents of this meeting are hard to digest, and please come back to us with any input.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of April 20, 2017 (Addendum).
2. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	April 5, 2016 Fire Drill April 20, 2016 Shelter in Place with Movement Drill
Roosevelt School	April 21, 2016 Fire Drill April 28, 2016 Evacuation

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

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
June 6	Roosevelt Cherry Hill	4-6	MEBCI Elementary / Middle School Board Festival Mahwah High School	\$605.00
June 8	Roosevelt	1	Memorial Park Field Day	-
June 12	Roosevelt	4	Museum Village Monroe, NY	\$866.25
June 14	Roosevelt	4	Memorial Park Field Day	-

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

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

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 School Year Budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$17,237,528	\$15,106,738
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,016,739	N/A
Total Debt Service	<u>\$ 1,409,313</u>	\$ 1,197,136
Total	\$19,663,580	

Be it resolved, that the River Edge Board of Education include in the proposed budget an adjustment in the amount of \$104,636 for increases in past enrollment.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Education approve a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$100,000. The district intends to utilize the funds for building repairs plus a new master clock system and security upgrades.

Motion by: Mrs. Dansky, Seconded by: Ms. Koth

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

2. That the Board of Education accept the \$870.00 gift from Jennifer Wang-Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).

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

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

PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Laura Moynihan, Substitute Bus Driver for the 2016-17 school year pending completion of required paperwork (Addendum).
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Sara Caruolo for the Building Bridges Extended School Year for the month of July 2017 (Addendum).
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Courtney Sweet, MA, Step 2*, a Leave Replacement Teacher for the Building Bridges Extended School Year for the Month of July 2017 (Addendum).

** Salary to be determined upon the ratification and approval of the negotiated REEA Agreement.*

4. That the Board of Education approve the job description for the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction (Addendum).
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following River Dell High School students to participate in the School Sponsored Senior Service Program to consist of 20 to 25 hours per week of volunteer work at a non-profit organization to commence on May 15, 2017 through June 14, 2017.

Grace Cepeda
Celine Pohan
Sigmund Pohan
Kayla Sampayo

6. 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.

Sarah Feder Speech and Language specialist
Tapia First Review LLC Bilingual psychologist

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

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

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") appoints Louise A. Napolitano, as the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the River Edge School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Employment Agreement shall be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent for review and approval, according to standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Employment Agreement with Louise A. Napolitano for the position of School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the foregoing period of appointment, conditional upon the approval of the Employment Agreement between the Board and Louise A. Napolitano by the Executive County Superintendent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Employment Agreement by and between the Board and Louise A. Napolitano following receipt of the approval by the Executive County Superintendent.

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

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

RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION – None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Dr. Ben-Dov asked for questions from the public. She first said the Board would go to next steps: study, look at possibilities, digest and discuss possibilities.

1. Anthony Arturi asked: Will there be additional open sessions? Yes. The whole process will go with county and state for reconfiguration.
2. Jenny Bobb asked: Is there consideration of purchasing land in the area; for instance, the Kinderkamack Road house that is always available. It could be a close-by land owned by the Board. Dr. Ben-Dov responded it is long process and would need zoning changes, in addition to taking up the Board's resources. Mrs. Myers responded a referendum is needed on that, and they did not really look at it as it is long, expensive process. Needed would be an environmental review, studies cost, what you would use the property for, county and state approval; it would take at least six months to the end. Dr. Ben-Dov asked what happens to the seller? Do we wait for arrangements, and if we don't have the money, we need a referendum to raise funds. Can we bypass this, then put it on the market. Mrs. Dansky commented on a previous sale of property that was a small school. The lots needed to be renovated in order to build the Cherry Hill gymnasium; development in that area brought tax revenue. Look at the bigger picture – what is the good. We need a big investment now.
3. Karen Hecker commented: This is an extremely logical approach, using the property on the market. It is the best use of the property.
4. Yael Ben-Yossef asked: Did anyone consider a room for instrumental music? For the hours of needed study, then small group learning, then instrumental music.

5. Kelly Lempener asked: When will the Architect's Presentation be put on the website? Mrs. Myers answered it was the Board to share, but was not made for public viewing. Ms. Lempener asked: Why was only one week's notice given for this meeting? Dr. Ben-Dov answered an e-mail was sent to all parents last week. Mrs. Lempener commented there are other parents who want to see the Architect's Report in order to make a decision. Dr. Ben-Dov said a summary of the Architect's Report will be made available to parents shortly via e-mail.
6. Allyson Mathews asked: Regarding a previous presentation by the same Architects, another possibility was presented; that being to build extra classrooms. What happened to that? Why is it not on the table? Mrs. Myers responded we wanted to explore options first. We don't want to go there if we don't have it. Regarding sharing with more parents

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Danahy to convene into closed session at 9:00 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Danahy, seconded by Mr. Koth to reconvene the regular Public Meeting at 10:00 PM.

PERSONNEL - None

ADJOURNMENT

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Joseph Bellino
Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator