

# RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

## Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – June 7, 2017

### 7:30 PM Public Meeting

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the New Bridge Center Project Room, 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**

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Ms. Danahy was absent

Mr. Koth arrived at 8:25 PM

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

Mr. Bellino read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Honor Retirees:

John Lyons

Kathleen Salvatore

Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Mrs. Kuruc and Mrs. Rosen all commented on the retirees' hard work, loyal service and dedication to the students and families of River Edge. Dr. Ben-Dov presented flowers to the retirees and Mrs. Myers presented the retirees with a framed resolution. The Cherry Hill PTO thanked the retirees and presented them each with a gift card. Each retiree thanked everyone for their kind words and appreciation.

## RESOLUTIONS TO RECOGNIZE OUR HONOREES

### Honor Retiree John Lyons

Motion by Mr. Busted  
Seconded by Mr. Herbst

*WHEREAS, John Lyons has announced his retirement after twenty-four years of dedicated service to the River Edge Public Schools; and*

*WHEREAS, he has shared his expertise in managing our buildings, classrooms, and grounds to provide a safe and secure environment for the River Edge School District*

*WHEREAS, he contributed to planning for multiple building projects both at Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School and, most notably, the addition of New Bridge Center*

*WHEREAS, he remembers the weather forecast, his early morning calls, and the excellent work of his staff every day and especially during inclement weather*

*WHEREAS, he has fond recollections of the many leaders of the district and their differentiated needs and visions*

*WHEREAS, he shared a special place in his heart for all of the children in River Edge and especially at New Bridge Center*

*WHEREAS, after his faithful service to River Edge schools, he wishes to retire*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this Seventh day of June, Two Thousand Seventeen spread upon its Minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for his valued service, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the River Edge community offers its best wishes to John Lyons for a long, happy, healthy, and productive retirement and its gratitude for his years of service to the District*

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

### Honor Retiree Kathleen Salvatore

Motion by Mr. Busted  
Seconded by Mr. Herbst

*WHEREAS, Kathy Salvatore has announced her retirement after twenty-seven years of dedicated service to the River Edge Public Schools; and*

*WHEREAS, she has taught Grades four, five, and gifted and talented education in the River Edge District; and*

*WHEREAS, she has opened her classroom to hundreds of students and their families, instilling a contagious zeal for learning and spirit of inquiry through bridge building, public speaking as an historical figure, and calculating wedding cake surface area; and*

*WHEREAS, her high expectations, collaborative lessons, and extensive expertise afforded her students opportunities for outstanding achievement in mathematics; and*

*WHEREAS, she inspired her students to ponder the wonders of learning with critical thinking, problem solving, integrity, and creative cross-curricular endeavors - a true trailblazer of STEAM*

*WHEREAS, she has been an educational leader for all, contributing to the REEA and countless committees; and*

*WHEREAS, after her years of faithful service to the River Edge Schools, she wishes to retire, now therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this seventh day of June, Two Thousand Seventeen spread upon its Minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for her valued service; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the River Edge community offers its best wishes to Mrs. Kathy Salvatore for a long, happy, healthy, and productive retirement, and its gratitude for her years of service to the school.*

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

Recess: 8:07 PM

## Reception

Reconvene: 8:25 PM

Special Education Presentation

## REPORTS

### SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- We completed preliminary discussions for personnel placement for 2017–2018 school year. Due to a decrease in enrollment at Roosevelt School it appears that up to two teachers will be moving from Roosevelt to Cherry Hill. We are finalizing these decisions.
- District Climate meeting was today. Mrs. Rosen shared an anti-bullying initiative to promote respectful behavior. The idea of the Buddy Bench was presented to the team as a stigma free space. There will be an instructional curriculum on how the benches should be used. Two parents have offered a grant for the benches. We hope to accept the grant at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting and put the benches in place over the summer so that they will be ready for use in September.
- Cherry Hill's graduation will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at River Dell High School and Roosevelt's graduation will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Roosevelt School. Cherry Hill's award ceremony will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and Roosevelt's award ceremony will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- We need to address voting in schools with the mayor. Yesterday's voting combined with inclement weather made the day extremely difficult for staff and children.

### PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Two weeks ago Open House took place, it was a huge success. The halls and gymnasium were teeming with students and parents. The students were so excited to show off their work to their parents and grandparents. There was a wide range of student work on display, ranging from their artwork, to stories they wrote, to the Grade 5 science tri-folds in the gym. It was a fun night with many smiles and equally proud students and their families.
- Kara Cuadra, along with her instrumental students, attended band festival in Mahwah yesterday. In total she brought along 78 students to perform. The students played four pieces and then were given a 10-minute lesson from the adjudicator.
- The Grade 3 recorder concert took place last week. The talented students will undoubtedly be future members of the concert band. Mr. Urban did a tremendous job preparing the students who sounded great.
- Mr. Urban also directed the Grade 2 play, "It's a Hit", which certainly was a hit. The student performers did an amazing job!

- CREATE Celebration is next week, Roosevelt Carnival is Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>, and graduation rehearsals are underway.

**BOARD SECRETARY**

Mr. Bellino reported on the following:

- Grant season is upon us. The Extraordinary Aide Application has been submitted with a slightly higher amount this year. Unsure what the state will reimburse.
- IDEA grant in process and will be submitted by the end of the week.
- Mrs. Napolitano has made two visits. The last day for Mr. Bellino will be June 23 and Mrs. Napolitano will come in for 2 or 3 days the last week of June.

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- We have begun the formation of the ad hoc "District Planning" committee. The official committee title is yet to be determined.

**COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Koth reported that the ad hoc District Planning committee will be discussing and researching solutions to our future enrollment/space issues including the following possibilities: reconfiguration of schools, land acquisition, upgrade current facilities, or remain status quo. The committee will seek alternative methods to best analyze these solutions and will report on its recommendations when ready.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION / POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of May 17, 2017. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

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

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	May 8, 2017 Fire drill May 31, 2017 Lock down
Roosevelt School	May 15, 2017 Fire drill May 23, 2017 Bomb threat

3. That the Board of Education approve the following bus evacuation drills:

Class	Date	Time
Building Connections-Elementary	5/24/17	2:55 PM
Building Connections-Primary	5/24/17	3:00 PM
Building Bridges -Primary	5/24/17	3:00 PM
Building Bridges -Elementary	5/24/17	3:00 PM
Building Bridges Preschool	5/24/17	2:00 PM
PreK-4	5/24/17	2:10 PM

4. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB report and consequences reported by Dr. Ben-Dov at the May 17, 2017 Board Meeting.
5. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
6/6/17	Roosevelt / Cherry Hill	4-6 Symphonic Band Members	MEBCI Elementary / Middle School Band Festival Mahwah High School	\$ 605.00
6/8/17	Cherry Hill	5	Bance Factory Warren, NJ Build motorized LEGO models	\$1,680.00
6/13/17	Roosevelt / Cherry Hill	6	River Edge Swim Club Graduating Class Picnic	-
6/16/17	Cherry Hill	6	Liberty Science Center Liberty State Park	\$2,721.00
6/19/17	Cherry Hill	6	River Dell High School Practice for Graduation	-

6. BE IT RESOLVED by the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Addendum to the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as the "Addendum") between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, and which Addendum is located in the student's file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Addendum, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

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

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

Nays: None

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None**

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None**

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the proposed school tax payment schedule for the 2017-2018 school year as per the attached. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

**E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Lauren Guida to commence on or about October 2 , 2017 through November 9, 2017, to be followed by a Federal / State Family leave of absence to commence on or about November 10, 2017 through February 9, 2018. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the contract for 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, as approved by the Bergen County Executive Superintendent of Schools. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve Colleen Poole to perform Home Instruction from on or about May 15, 2017 to on or about June 30, 2017 at \$35.00 per hour.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approves a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Ashley Cannata to commence on or about October 23 , 2017 through November 24, 2017, to be followed by followed by a Federal/State Family leave of absence to commence on or about November 27, 2017 through February 23, 2018. (Addendum)
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Tenured Administrators for the 2017-2018 school year.

Denise Heitman  
Rosemary Kuruc  
Beth Rosen

Principal  
Supervisor of Special Services  
Assistant Principal

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following Non-tenured Administrator for the 2017-2018 school year.

Michael Henzel

Principal

7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of a Non-tenured Supervisor for the 2017-2018 school year.

Adrienne Spano

8. That the Board of Education approve the salary guide for ABA Aides 2017-2018 school year as per the list on file in the District Office. (Addendum)
9. That the Board of Education approve the salary guide for part-time hourly clerical, instructional, health and lunch aides for the 2017-2018 school year as per the list on file in the District Office. (Addendum)
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following instructional aides for the Summer Enrichment Program, from June 16, 2017 to July 21, 2017, 4 hours per day at their contractual rate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Kathleen McKinless	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Gina Chamberlin	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Kacie Schrettner	7:30 AM – 1:30 PM Bus Aide / Preschool Aide
Donna Meyers	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM Preschool Aide

11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following teachers at their contractual hourly rate, for the Extended School Year Program, from June 26, 2017 to July 21, 2017.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Gina Forte	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM (4 hrs/day – up to 3 days per week, per diem)
Julie Fallon	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (4 hrs/day per diem)
Jessica Barbo	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (4 hrs/day per diem)
Lauren Port Vliet	1 day per week / not to exceed 4 hours per day

12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of ABA Aides for the Building Bridges Extended School Year Program, from July 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Bastable, Mary	Johannessen, Kristen
Batista, Melvin	Lawler, Kathleen
Belits, Helen	Lekkas, Alexia
Benitez, Francisco	Lloyd, Sheryl
Blackwell, Alexandria	Manning, Wendy
Capozzi, Rhonda	Maurice, Diana
Casaburro, Amy	Nyhan, Catherine
Cetro, Justin	Ofshinsky, Sandra
Connors, Debbie	Ofshinsky, Carol
Delucia, Amanda	Rivera, Joanne
Douglas, Alrick	Schmidt, Alexandra
Drill, Aleida	Seifert, Paige
Espinosa, Gregorio	Spinetti, Lisa
Falla, Debbie	Suarez, Ashley
Ferrigno, Nicolette	Tricarico, Theresa
Gleason, Alexandra	Wallace, Deanna
Gonzalez, Jane	Watson, Christine
	Yphantides, Laura

13. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Maria Jimenez, bus driver, for the Building Bridges Extended School Year Program, at a maximum of 23 hours per week, from July 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017.
14. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Jennifer Seitz, Instructional Aide, effective June 9, 2017. (Addendum)

15. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 School Year salaries of the non-represented employees as per the attached. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

#### **F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following therapists for the Extended School Year Program from July 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017, not to exceed 35 hours.

Karen Willick	Occupational Therapist (up to 3 days per week) 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, at \$80.00 per hour
Nicole Hill (Region V)	Physical Therapist (up to 2 days per week) 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, at \$70.00 per hour

2. That the Board of Education approve Care Plus NJ, as a service provider effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

**Motion by: Mr. Sim, Seconded by: Mr. Busted**

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

Nays: 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.

Leslie Fishbein	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
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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 2017-2018 school year.

Christine Moran	Occupational Therapist
Beverly Silver Therapy LLC	Occupational Therapist
June Baldino	Occupational Therapist
Power Grip Therapy, LLC	Occupational Therapist
Voices Now	Behaviorist
Johanna Bargisen	Behaviorist
Victoria Bukey	Behaviorist
Stephanie Javier	Behaviorist
Adrienne Marchese	Behaviorist
Pat Shannon Dimiatris	Behaviorist



Deborah Hamburg	Speech and Language Specialist
Marion Gonzalez	Speech and Language Specialist
Shelli Napolitano	Speech and Language Specialist
Meryl Schreiber	Speech and Language Specialist
Rachel Friedman	Speech and Language Specialist
Ingrid Gsellmeier	Speech and Language Specialist
Learning By Design, Inc.	Psychologist
Eniko Mannings	Psychologist
CK Physical Therapy, Inc.	Physical Therapist
Leslie Fishbein	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Fran Ebel	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Lauren Gallo	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Judy Johnston	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
William Luderer	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Michelle McMahon	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Jill McManus	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Emmanuel Morales	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Ellen Muhlberg	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Robin Oliff	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Jane Petrozzino	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Rocco Recchione	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Theresa Regan Geraci	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Aida Rosado	Spanish Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
EDL Consultants	Spanish Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant

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

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

Nays: None

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mr. Herbst discussed Roosevelt Open House and NJSBA Meeting.
2. Mr. Koth asked about a committee schedule.
3. Inter-Local Agreement discussed.
4. Mr. Sim attended NJSBA Delegate Assembly.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

1. Discussed voting day problems.

**CLOSED SESSION** – None

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Koth to adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:15 PM.

All Ayes (voice)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Joseph Bellino  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator