

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 15, 2017

7:30 PM

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 7:35 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Koth read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Danahy; Mr. Herbst; Mr. Koth; Mrs. Myers and Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, and approximately ten members of the public.

Mr. Busted arrived at 8:45 PM

Ms. Dansky left at 9:04 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Summer Enrichment Program Report - Chris Armen

Chris Armen, the Director of the program, thanked the Board of Education, Ms. Karpowich, Ms. Albrizio, Ms. Dicostanzo, Ms. Levis, Ms. Blute, Mr. Stevens, custodians, volunteers, students and their families, and the teachers that contributed to the success of this program. This was Mr. Armen's twelfth year of directing this program. He reviewed the enrollment, financial data and gave some recommendations for next year's success.

Report Cards –Christine Moran

Ms. Moran presented to the board and the public the new standard-based report cards. She went over standards, how the new report card differs from the traditional report card, how the new report card was developed, the assessment scale, benchmarks, what the new report card looks like and how to read it. She presented the sixth grade report card that will be more of a "hybrid" as it continues to use letter grades in addition to being standard-based in all subjects to be consistent with the middle school. Ms. Moran and Dr. Ben-Dov answered all questions that were asked.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated we have completed the critical incident trainings with the River Edge Police at both schools. Roosevelt School had their training on October 23rd and Cherry Hill had theirs on November 6th.
- Both schools have completed their long evacuation drills. Roosevelt had their drill on November 14th and Cherry Hill had theirs today. Both schools successfully walked over to their respective destinations. After each drill the principals wrote to the parents letting them know the drill was complete, as agreed with the parents in advance.
- The camera upgrade is almost complete. We will have trainings for all office personnel. Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the Memorandum of Understanding that is something new by the state. It allows the police to view our cameras from their station. We will have a resolution on the next agenda to pass this.
- The School and District goals that were created at the November 1st board meeting were sent to us by Mr. Matt Lee. We are working on the action plans for all of them and they will be on the next agenda.
- Parent/teacher conferences will be on Monday and Tuesday of next week. The first standard-based report card will be given out on those days.
- Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the new academic calendar for next school year. She stated that our marking periods are uneven and she offered the idea of having our Parent/Teacher Conferences in November but having the report cards given out at a later date. The idea came from the teachers and she said she supported it.
- The Wellness Committee met today. The new policy requires a Wellness Committee of teachers, parents, administrators, and a board member to convene and make recommendations to the Board of Education. The Committee reviewed the policy and discussed a bunch of topics. They will continue their discussions and make recommendations for the next Wellness Policy review.
- Dr. Ben-Dov has received two letters from parents commending two Special Education Teachers. She was very pleased that the parents took the time to write these letters.
- Dr. Ben-Dov shared with the Board that a magazine called "New Jersey Teachers" mentioned our District in an article. This was in the context of an interview with Ms. Schnee our ESL teacher and Coordinator who spoke about ESL students and programs.

PRINCIPALS

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Building Bridges had a wonderful experience with the Liberty Science program in our STEAM Lab.
- Building Bridges and Building Connections is collecting food for St. Peter's for the holiday season. They are taking a field trip there to fill the pantries themselves. The students are excited for this trip.
- We had a wonderful Veteran's Day celebration Ceremony on November 8th at Memorial Park
- Cherry Hill School had their evacuation drill on November 15th. We successfully walked over 820 students and staff to our remote location. Mrs. Heitman thanked Mr. McCarthy for his help at the school.
- Franklin Institute came to our school as an enrichment program and worked on many science activities. This was paid for by our PTO.
- There was a Parent Meeting tonight on Report Cards and Christine Moran presented to the Special Education parents our new standard-based report cards
- The Cherry Hill School PTO is doing a fundraiser to see the movie Wonder
- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for November 20th and November 21st. There is an online sign up for it.
- We had to re-schedule our fire prevention assembly due to the evacuation drill on November 15th. Mrs. Heitman will let the board know the new date for this once it is scheduled.
- Mrs. Heitman is getting lots of ideas from the CREATE students regarding inside lunch activities. Mrs. Heitman enjoyed the presentations from the students.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- The cameras have new recording equipment and new screens in the main offices of both schools.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- The Negotiations Committee met with the REEA on Tuesday, November 14th to continue negotiations in an attempt to reach settlement. These are the only details Mrs. Myers was able to give at this time. This matter will be discussed in closed session later this evening.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. Herbst spoke about the Wellness Committee that took place on November 15th. He stated this was the first meeting and they discussed the new wellness policy and the PTO and the food lists.
- Mr. Koth spoke about the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting that took place on November 6th. They spoke about banking, security, parking, snow removal, and the repairs to the Cherry Hill School roof.
- Ms. Danahy spoke about the Curriculum/Instruction Committee meeting that took place on November 6th. The special education goal which included collaborative teaching in sixth grade, aides training and a Child Study Team office and a Child Study Team member at Roosevelt School. They also discussed Mindfulness and flexible seating.
- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Ad-Hoc Policy Committee meeting that took place on November 15th. They reviewed the 3000 series of policies.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2018 Board of Education Meeting Dates as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
January 3, 2018 January 17, 2018	Roosevelt School (Re-Organization Meeting) Cherry Hill School
February 7, 2018 February 27, 2018 (Tuesday)	Roosevelt School Cherry Hill School
March 14, 2018 March 28, 2018	Roosevelt School Cherry Hill School (Tentative Budget Adoption)
April 11, 2018 April 25, 2018	Roosevelt School Cherry Hill School (Public Hearing for Budget)
May 2, 2018 May 23, 2018	Roosevelt School Cherry Hill School
June 13, 2018 June 27, 2018	Roosevelt School Cherry Hill School

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of October 18, 2017

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

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

Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for November 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November 2017 totaling \$500,535.71 including checks #40393 through #40508. Payrolls dated October 13, 2017 and October 31, 2017, totaling \$1,118,237.09 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2017-2018 as of September 30, 2017 and October 31, 2017. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending September 30, 2017 and October 31, 2017.

Further, we certify that as of September 30, 2017 and October 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 over expended 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)

4. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Enrichment Program Report for the 2017 Summer Program.
5. That the Board of Education accept the \$210.00 donation from Jennifer Wong-Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
6. That the Board of Education approve the STEAM Education Program provided by Liberty Science Center for Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Schools in the aggregate of \$42,500 for September 2017 to June 2018.

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

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

Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for Cycle II of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2017-2018 School Year, as per contract:

Roosevelt

Kate Langan
Cassandra McGovern
Heather Rothschild
Leah Taylor
Nevin Werner

Cherry Hill

Debbie Auriemma
Kristen Corcoran
Nancy Jencsik
Katherine O'Reilly
Andrea Siclari

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the extended child care leave of absence for Sara Caruolo to commence on February 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Susan Yi, Leave Replacement Teacher, MA, Step 1, from November 16, 2017 through on or about March 23, 2018.
4. That the Board of Education approve that the following people will staff the Wellness Committee for the 2017-2018 School Year:

Casey Aday	Kristin Karam	Wendy Naimaister
Tara Benevento	Jennifer Kim	
Janel Blake	Greg Kupchak	
Andrea Friedlander	Rosemary Kuruc	
Denise Heitman	Christine Moran	
Michael Henzel	Rita Polak	
Caleb Herbst	Beth Rosen	
Sabrina Johnston	Tara Vernieri	

5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Ashley Adimando to commence on or about April 30, 2018 through June 8, 2018, to be followed by a Federal/State Family leave of absence to commence on or about June 11, 2018 through November 5, 2018.

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

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim, Mrs. Myers
 Nays: 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 2017-2018 school year.

Gloria Kim Psychologist

2. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November 2017 totaling \$1,096,549.60 including checks #69082 through #69248.

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS- A discussion was held to cancel the December 20th board meeting. The board gave Mrs. Napolitano permission to pay the December bills. A resolution will be on the December 6th agenda for the approval.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION- Ms. Chinigo inquired about Liberty Science Center and our STEAM education program with them. Dr. Ben-Dov explained the concept of the STEAM Education program provided by Liberty Science and the benefits and collaboration with students and teachers and the long range benefit of this collaboration. A great deal of research was invested into the selection of this program. The professionals of the Liberty Science Center bring with them cumulative expertise and materials that couldn't have been accomplished by hiring a .5 science teacher. The idea is for them to team teach and provide coaching to certain grades this year in a manner that will be reproducible in the future. The long-term plan calls for a continued collaboration that will be geared to coaching different grade level teachers in future years. Great satisfaction was reported by students, parents, and teachers and their support for and enthusiasm about the program has been tremendous.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim seconded by Mr. Koth to convene into closed session at 8:59 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Koth to reconvene the regular public meeting at 9:22 PM.

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. That the Board of Education approve the Shared Services Agreement for Clearing Snow and Controlling Ice made between the Borough of River Edge and the River Edge Board of Education from November 15, 2017 – June 30, 2020.

Motion by: Mr. Busteed Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator