

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 6, 2017**

**7:30 PM**

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 7:35PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Danahy read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Busteed arrived at 7:40 PM  
Mr. Koth was absent

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

**REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- The first term of school ended with conferences and the roll out of new report cards. It was very successful. The parents and the teachers are reporting a lot of satisfaction with the new report cards and the conversations they inspired. Dr. Ben-Dov is very pleased with the pre-work that went into it and thanked Ms. Christine Moran and all the teachers for this work.
- There was a Parent Academy Night on the evening of November 30<sup>th</sup> for Internet Safety for Fifth and Sixth grade parents and students. It was well attended with 70 parents and 60 children attending. This was a first of a kind, creative evening as both parents and

students were addressed together and separately. Dr. Ben-Dov tried to get the press to attend this meeting but they are not returning her phone calls or emails. She will keep trying to get in-touch with them. She thanked Ms. Rosen for organizing it.

- There was a Parent Academy Night on the evening of December 5th for Balanced Literacy for primary grades. This meeting was well presented and got good reviews from attendees but was not as well attended with 20 people attending. She thanked Ms. AnneMaire Spiegel and the teachers, Ms. Boucher, Ms. Auriemma, and Ms. Langan who presented that evening.
- There was an HIB Incident to report. It involved a Cherry Hill School Fifth grader making offensive comments to another Cherry Hill Fifth grade student. It was investigated and found to be HIB related. Consequences were given in accordance with the River Edge Code of Conduct and there will be a resolution on the next agenda to affirm this decision.
- Monitoring for the Special Education department was on November 30<sup>th</sup> and it was successful. No corrections are needed for this visit.
- The Fourth grade students will be going on a class trip this Friday to Liberty Science Center. They are very excited to preview the new planetarium which is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The PTO's are paying for two buses for this trip and the district is paying for the other two.
- There was a meeting to Adopt a school in Puerto Rico on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The challenge was to transport the goods they need. Discussions are ongoing with the PTO and we are hoping to resolve the logistics and begin sending clothing to the students in the school in Puerto Rico.
- Dr. Ben-Dov wished everyone Happy Holidays

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Report card conferences occurred the week of Thanksgiving. They went smoothly. All parents requested their own conferences with Signup Genius and Genesis.
- Roosevelt School practiced a long evacuation drill. Mr. Henzel commended the students and staff for an outstanding job. He also thanked the Middle School for working with them.
- The Fourth grade students are very much looking forward to their visit to the Liberty Science Center this Friday and the unveiling of the new planetarium.
- We celebrated Veteran's Day at Memorial Park on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's celebration marked Joe Magueri's final time as the emcee for Veteran's Day with the students.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve Columbia Bank as the depository for funds
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to go out to bid on the roof replacement at Roosevelt School

- The snow removal agreement is in place. Mrs. Napolitano received the sign copy from the Borough this week.
- Mrs. Napolitano asked the Board if the Finance and Facilities committee would like to meet on December 13th

**PRESIDENT**

- Mrs. Myers thanked Ms. Danahy for her outstanding service to the River Edge Board of Education and presented her with flowers and a plaque.

**COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Sim spoke about the Technology Meeting he attended on November 28<sup>th</sup>. They discussed STEAM Labs, PARCC updates, and going green.
- Mr. Sim attended the NJ School Boards Association Assembly on November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Sim attended a County Meeting on Social Media with Mr. Fogarty presenting that evening.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of November 1, 2017.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for December 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	November 15, 2017 Evacuation Drill November 28, 2017 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	November 14, 2017 Evacuation Drill November 29, 2017 Fire Drill

4. That the Board of Education approve the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills, as necessary, during the month of December which will be ratified at the next Regular Public Meeting.
5. That the Board of Education approve the 2017 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Edge Elementary Schools and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2017-2018 school year.
6. That the Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the River Edge School District and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

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

7. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
3320	Purchasing Procedures
3326	Payment for Goods and Services
3327	Relations with Vendors
3400	Accounts
3440	Inventories
3450	Money in School Buildings
3451	Petty Cash Funds
3453	School Activity Funds
3510	Operation and Maintenance of Plant
3514	Equipment
3515	Smoking Prohibition Policy
3515	Smoking Prohibition Exhibits
3515	Smoking Prohibition Regulation
3516	Safety
3530	Insurance Management
3541.1	Transportation Routes and Services
3541.31	Privately Owned Vehicles
3541.32	District Owned Vehicles
3541.33	Transportation Safety
3542.31	Free or Reduced Price Lunches, Milk
3570	District Records and Reports
3571.4	Audit
3600	Evaluation of Business and Noninstructional Operations

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

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

8. That the Board of Education approve the following District Goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Goal #1:** Research and implement best practices to achieve student growth in the areas of:

- A. Vocabulary in grade levels 2-6
- B. Mathematics in grade levels 3-6

**Goal #2:** Fully implement a standards-based report card system, including teacher training and parent education initiatives

**Goal #3:** Integrate mindfulness practices in each building to promote student health and wellness

**Goal #4:** Monitor, assess and refine the recommendations produced in the district-wide 2016-2017 assessment of special education programs and services.

- A. Create a Child Study Space with Child Study Team member presence in Roosevelt School
- B. Provide training for instructional aides and teachers early in the school year and on an ongoing basis, as needed throughout the year
- C. Implement collaborative teaching for Grade 6 students in the areas of science and social studies, monitor the program and look at younger students' IEPs with an eye to expand the program for 2018-2019

9. That the Board of Education approve the following Board Goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Goal #1:** Enhance the board's understanding of the district's financial reports through training session(s) with the business administrator and treasurer of school monies.

**Goal #2:** Undertake periodic board training in various areas of board governance utilizing the resources of the NJSBA.

10. That the Board of Education approve the following School Goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Cherry Hill School**

**Goal #1:** By June 2018, 100% of students in grades three through six will demonstrate growth in math as indicated by an increase on the average grade level score by at least 20 percentage points on the grade specific Linkit Form C administered in the late spring 2018.

**Goal #2:** By June 2018, 100% of students in grades 2 through 6 will demonstrate growth as indicated by an increase on the average school score by at least 17 percentage points on the Vocabulary post assessment.

**Roosevelt School**

**Goal #1:** By June 2018, 100% of students in grades three through six will demonstrate growth in math as indicated by an increase on the average grade level score by at least 20 percentage points on the grade specific Form C administered in the late Spring 2018.

**Goal#2:** By June 2018, 100% of students in grades 2 through 6 will demonstrate growth as indicated by an increase on the average school score by at least 17 percentage points on the Vocabulary post assessment.

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

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill and Roosevelt School	4	Liberty Science Center Jersey City, NJ	\$650.00

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

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

12. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 15, 2017.

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

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

13. That the Board of Education approve the Confidential Minutes of November 15, 2017.

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

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

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None**

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

1. Whereas, The Board of Education of River Edge in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Board"), desires to proceed with a school facilities project consisting generally of:

PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT AT ROOSEVELT Elementary School

Whereas, the Board now seeks to take the initial steps in order to proceed with the Project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER EDGE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of Section 6A:26-3 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, the Board hereby approves the Schematic Plans prepared in connection with the Project and the Board further authorizes the submission of same to the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education for approval. This project is designated "Other Capital" and the Board is not seeking state funding.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes the amendment to its Long-Range Facilities Plan in order to reflect the proposed Project.

Section 3. The School Administration and such other officers and agents of the Board as are necessary, including the Board attorney, bond counsel and architect, are hereby authorized to perform such other acts, to execute such other documents and to do such other things as are necessary to implement the determinations of the Board set forth in this resolution. Including the submission of Information to the New Jersey Department of Education as applicable to the proposed Project.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Motion by: Ms. Danhay Seconded by: Mr. Busted**

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

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong-Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
2. That the Board of Education designate Columbia Bank as the depository for funds for the Board of Education as of January 1, 2018.
3. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 18 IDEA Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Basic IDEA - Public	\$10,216
Basic IDEA - Non-public	\$10,251

4. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 18 Title Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Title I	\$16,983
Title II-Public	\$2,680.00
Title II-Non-Public	\$2,700.00
Title III-Public	\$2,345.00
Title III -Non-Public	\$144.00
Title III Immigrant –Public	\$1,032.00
Title III Immigrant -Non-Public	\$136.00

5. That the Board of Education accept the \$650.00 donation from the Roosevelt and Cherry Hill School PTO's for a portion of the buses for the Liberty Science Center field trip (Addendum).

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

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

**E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Claudia Levis, School Secretary, effective February 1, 2018.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Julie Rabinowitz, as the District Liaison to the Board of the River Edge Public Library for the 2017-2018 school year.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve an emergent leave of absence for Samantha Cedeno having commenced on November 13, 2017, utilizing all available paid leave followed by an FMLA leave in accordance with The Family and Medical Leave Act subject to review upon the completion of time.

4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the Child Care Leave of absence for Lauren Guida to commence upon the completion of her Federal/State Family leave of absence, February 12, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Marissa Conti as a Student Teacher, from March 22, 2018 through May 4, 2018.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Marissa Conti as a Substitute Teacher for the 2017-2018 School Year.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Cassandra McGovern, MA, Step 2\* to continue as Leave Replacement Teacher through June 30, 2018.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Courtney Sweet, MA, Step 2\* to continue as Leave Replacement Teacher through June 30, 2018.
9. That the Board of Education approve Kaitlyn DeVasto for Cycle II of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2017-2018 School Year.
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Mariana Marinich, MA, Step 2\*, Part-Time (.5) Leave Replacement ESL Teacher to commence on or about January 16, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the increase in Full Time Equivalency status Kathy Lee, MA, Step 5\*, from Part-Time (.5) Teacher to commence on or about January 16, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Lucia Moran, MA, Step 4\*, Part-Time (.5) Leave Replacement Academic Support Teacher to commence on or about January 16, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

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

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

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

Nays: None

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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

Class	Date	Time
Building Bridges (Preschool) and Pre-k 4	12/1/17	2:15 PM
Building Connections and Building Bridges (Primary and Elem Class)	12/1/17	2:45 PM

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

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

Nays: None



## **G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Region I (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
2. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Region II (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
3. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Region III (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
4. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Mercer County Special Services (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
5. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
6. **WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education (the "Board") is the lead education agency ("LEA") for the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education ("Region V"); and

**WHEREAS**, Region V provides shared services for its member districts such as evaluations, direct services, and consultation; and

**WHEREAS**, as the LEA, the Board must approve the consultant agreements of the providers that Region V utilizes to deliver shared services to its member districts.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the consultant agreements of the following Region V Shared Services Consultants, Psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Social Workers, Speech Language Specialists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, and 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:

Jeonghae Jones Bilingual Psychologist

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the consultant agreements and any other documents necessary to effectuate same.

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

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bruce Julien, River Edge Parent, spoke about the new Liberty Science Center program. He is proposing all schools and grades attend this program in the future.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Busteed, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 8:17 PM.

**RECONVENE**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Busteed to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:46 PM.

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator