

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

7:30 PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 27, 2018

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

Mr. Sim 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. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, and Mr. Sim. Also present Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, Mrs. Rosen and four members of the public.

Mr. Busted was absent

Mrs. Myers was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

2018-2019 Initial Budget Presentation – Dr. Tova Ben-Dov and Louise Napolitano

Dr. Ben-Dov started the discussion with three principles for a good budget: (1) it truly aims to sustain educational opportunity for the students, (2) provides a good foundation for future budgets, and (3) it remains sensitive to our tax payers. Dr. Ben-Dov stated timing issues is a huge disadvantage for the current budget. We expect to have state aid numbers after our March 14th board meeting. It will therefore, be advantageous to change the date of the board meeting of March 28th, (a day before the budget needs to be submitted) to March 21st which was originally scheduled for committee meetings. Mrs. Napolitano reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 budget. It is still a work in progress. She presented a review of the current year budget and proposed budget. Dr. Ben-Dov also reviewed items that are not in the budget but that are desired. All questions were answered that was asked by the board members.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov introduced Mrs. Rosen as the School Safety Liaison. She stated Mrs. Rosen has been very helpful in-terms of attending and working closely with administration regarding safety. Dr. Ben-Dov indicated that safety has three major components: protocols, equipment, and personnel. This morning Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Rosen attended a second cup of coffee meeting with a crowd of 25 people. They had many questions regarding safety that Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Rosen answered. She started the meeting by telling them about our security situation. Our school along with the middle school and River Dell High School was assessed by the prosecutor's office and local police a few years ago. They gave us a specific list of improvements and upgrades that they wanted to see over time. They stressed it was not an emergency and prioritized them for the district based on our request. Every year since then, the district has made equipment upgrades with advice from law enforcement and we kept improving our protocols. The most recent physical upgrade was the double entry of the schools and we are in the process of getting double buzzers for New Bridge Center. We also upgraded our camera system over the summer and into the fall. We kept improving our protocols and we have been consulting with the police. The parents can't be privy to some specifics of our safety provisions and protocols. The parents also asked about our identification systems for children in distress and Mrs. Rosen discussed the various levels of identification and support for students' social emotional functioning in our schools. Dr. Ben-Dov has met with law enforcement three times over the last few weeks and spoke about everything they could think of that would inform and improve our practices. We have a wonderful relationship with the River Edge Police and they are at our buildings daily, while we cannot have them here at scheduled times they are here quite a bit and will have a strong presence at all public events. Dr. Ben-Dov said she would continue to do whatever she could to improve safety and she will continue to communicate with the police.
- There was an HIB Incident to report. It involved a Roosevelt School First grader making racial comments to another Roosevelt School First 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.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Jump Rope for Heart Health is being celebrated in our Physical Education department
- There are many fun activities going on in our school this week for Read Across America
- Our nurses are working with the custodial staff in regards to the confirmed cases of the flu. The custodians are doing a great job at cleaning and disinfecting our schools.
- The High School Marching Band is coming to our school on Friday. The sixth graders will get introduced to the band since they can join the band in the seventh grade.

- The sixth graders were invited to apply to become a Board of Education member for our Sixth Grade Board of Education meeting that will be held on April 11th
- On February 22nd our Building Bridges/Building Connections had a successful Parents Night Out
- Parent conferences for both schools will be on March 6th and March 8th
- Mrs. Heitman had a PTO meeting last night where she discussed safety in our schools with the parents
- We are gearing up for some fun activities that are planned for the month of March. March Madness competitions in our gym classes, March Mathness, PI competitions, and the visit from the penguins will all take place this month.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There was a bid opening for the Partial Roof Replacement at Roosevelt School on Friday, February 23rd
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve the withdrawal from the Maintenance Reserve Account for the sewer repairs at Cherry Hill School
- There are three Region V services for your approval on tonight's agenda

PRESIDENT

There was no report from the President at this time

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky attended the Curriculum/Instruction meeting on Wednesday, February 21st. They spoke about Liberty Science Center, Special Education, and vertical articulation with the Middle School.
- Mr. Sim spoke about the Finance/Facilities meeting that took place before the meeting. They spoke about the budget, the Roosevelt School roof, the sewer repair at Cherry Hill School, the Internet, and security provisions.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 7, 2018.

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedule for February 2018 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

3. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
4112.2	Certification
4112.6/4212.6	Personnel Records
4113/4213	Assignment Transfer
4115	Supervision
4117.4/4217.4	Reduction in Force/Abolishing a Position
4117.41	Nonrenewal
4119.21/4219.21	Conflict of Interest
4121	Substitute Teachers
4122	Student Teachers/Interns
4123	Classroom Aides (Paraprofessionals)
4132/4232	Publication
4135.4/4235.4	Staff Grievance
4138/4238	NonSchool Employment
4138.2	Private Tutoring
4147/4247	Employee Safety
4148/4248	Employee Protection
4151/4251	Attendance Patterns
4151.1/4251.1	Personal Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship
4211	Recruitment, Selection and Hiring
4215	Supervision
4221	Non-Instructional Substitutes
3517	Electronic Surveillance (Regulation)

Motion by Ms. Brown
 Seconded by Mr. Koth

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Sim
 Nays: None, Abstained: Mr. Koth

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2018 totaling \$1,379,682.68 including checks #40703 through #40827 claims dated February 2018 totaling Payrolls dated January 12, 2018 and January 31, 2018 totaling \$1,123,998.00 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)

2. That the Board of Education establish May 2, 2018 as the date for the official Public Hearing of the 2018-2019 School Year Budget.
3. That the Board of Education request the approval of a Maintenance Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$16,625 to 11-000-261-420-10-96 in order to excavate, install pipe, and rebuild existing manhole for the sewer at Cherry Hill Elementary School as set forth in the district using the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.

Motion by Mr. Koth
Seconded by Mr. Herbst

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Gail Funtsch, Special Education/Resource Teacher, effective July 1, 2018.

Motion by Mr. Herbst
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Cynthia Sherlock, Part-time Clerical Aide, for a maximum of 25 hours per week, starting February 28, 2018 through June 30, 2018.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Federal/State Family leave of absence for Anne Marie Spiegel to commence on or about September 4, 2018 through November 27, 2018, to be followed by a Child Care Leave of Absence to commence on or about November 28, 2018 through December 21, 2018.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kathleen Salvatore as substitute teacher for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Nancy Watkins, 2nd Grade Teacher, effective July 1, 2018.

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Mr. Koth

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

- 1. That the Board of Education approve a Tuition Contract with Celebrate the Children in Denville, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office. Transportation will be provided through Region V. The tuition rate is as follows:

\$68,310.00 2017 - 2018 School Year

Motion by Mr. Koth
Seconded by Mr. Herbst

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

- 1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2018 totaling \$1,055,319.38 including checks #69589 through #69760.
- 2. 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:

Somerset County Educational Services Commission	Home instruction
Care Plus NJ Inc.	Agency
Yeshivat He'Atid	Private School
	(for Non-Public Nursing)

Motion by Mr. Herbst
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mr. Sim
Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Koth asked if we can look into the basketball backboards for the Recreation Department.

Mr. Sim asked about greater clarity of the By-Laws of Region V. We will need to review this with our Attorney in relationship to the River Edge Board.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Koth, seconded by Mr. Herbst to adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:21 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator