

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – September 27, 2017

7:30 PM Public Meeting

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. Dansky; Mr. Herbst; Mr. Koth; Mr. Sim. Also present were Mrs. Napolitano, Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, Ms. Rosen, and approximately eighteen members of the public.

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:45 PM
Ms. Danahy was absent
Mr. Busteed was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed the new staff to the River Edge School District. Each staff member introduced himself or herself.

Janene Broking-Cherry Hill School Leave Replacement 5th Grade
David Cabrera-Cherry Hill School Custodian
Lindsay Comer- Cherry Hill School Leave Replacement 1st Grade
Brienne DeVico- Cherry Hill School-6th Grade Teacher
Andrea Flower-Cherry Hill School- Part-time Resource Teacher
Gianna Hrnciar– Cherry Hill School – 4th Grade Teacher
Nancy Jencsik-Cherry Hill School-3rd Grade Teacher
Jaime Lazor– Cherry Hill School – 5th Grade Teacher
Cassandra McGovern-Roosevelt School - Leave Replacement 5th Grade
Maria Morales– District-Part-time Spanish Teacher
Christine Moran-Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
AnneMarie Spiegel-Literacy/Social Studies Coach/Supervisor
Stan Stevens-Supervisor of Building and Grounds

Review 2016-2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
Gary Higgins, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

Gary Higgins of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the districts audit report to the Board Members. There was one recommendation regarding an audit journal entry however no action needs to be taken. He commended the Board office for their great record keeping and thanked the board for allowing his company to process the audit. He answered all questions that were asked by the board members.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- On tonight's agenda we have a resolution for a part-time Resource Teacher and a Roosevelt School Nurse. If approved, the Resource Teacher will start on Monday and the Nurse will start on October 16th.
- Our ESL population of students has grown so we need to increase our ESL employment by a part-time teacher. Dr. Ben-Dov is hoping to hire a teacher from within our school district to fill this position. Dr. Ben-Dov noted that we were fortunate to have the funds available for this position as the Roosevelt School population of students is smaller than anticipated. We had originally allocated an additional class section in the budget.
- Back to School Night was on the evening of September 19th for both schools and they were both well attended
- There was a Parent Academy Presentation on Tuesday, September 26th. The topic that was discussed was New Grades K-6 Report Cards. Ms. Christine Moran organized the event and there were breakout sessions for each individual grade level presentation (K-6). Approximately 150 people attended and the presentation will be on our website including "Frequently Asked Questions." Ms. Moran will attend a future board meeting to present the information to the board members and the public.
- The District Assessment Calendar will go out to parents this week. This calendar has all of the standardized and commercially developed tests that the students will take this year.
- October 9th will be a Professional Development Day for our teachers. The topics will include: ESL training for all teachers who have ESL students, suicide prevention, maker spaces, and standard basic report cards.
- There will be an ESL evening for parents on October 10th
- The Mayor and Council is planning an Emergency Council Meeting on October 10th and Dr. Ben-Dov will attend
- Post Dismissal Instructional Academy Cycle I has started today
- There will be three presentations at the October 11th board meeting: PARCC, NJ Ask and ACCESS which is mandated for the first time

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- The 2017-2018 school year had a great positive start
- The PTO Welcome Back Tea Meeting was held on Friday, September 8th
- Mrs. Heitman thanked the PTO for a wonderful New Family Reception on Thursday, September 14, 2017. Over 220 people attended this event.
- Kindergarten and fourth grade teachers had their first orientation meeting with Liberty Science Program at both schools
- Back to School Night at both schools was held on Tuesday, September 19th. The teachers did a great job and it was well attended.
- Picture day for Cherry Hill School was on Monday, September 25th. We were able to take pictures outside this year because of the beautiful warm weather.
- Post Dismissal Instructional Academy, Cycle I, started today and will end on November 15th
- There was a parent meeting for ACCESS Testing on September 27th
- There was a meeting for Library volunteers on September 27th

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- The Cherry Hill School field will be aerated and re-seeded
- Cameras and recording equipment was ordered for the district
- Repairs need to be made to the Roosevelt School roof. Mrs. Napolitano said she will have partial temporary repairs made now and recommend we go out to bid for a possible new roof next summer.
- Our new Cherry Hill School rock wall will be installed in November
- There was a planning board meeting on September 14th for the Kinderkamack property which will be revisited on September 28th at 7:30 PM. No action was taken at this meeting.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- The River Edge Board of Education is being honored at the October 4th New Jersey School Boards Association meeting. We are eligible to receive the NJSBA Board Re-Certification Award.
- Matt Lee from New Jersey School Board Association will come to the November 1st board meeting to go over Board Evaluations

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Curriculum and Instruction committee meeting that took place on September 13th. She stated the three supervisors presented at this meeting and gave updates in their areas of expertise. They also spoke about the allocation of aid funding towards professional development that was increased. The supervisors were very grateful for the fact that the board allowed the district to use the additional aid funds for much needed professional development. Ms. Dansky pointed out how this was evidence of something the board did that had immediate benefits.
- Mr. Koth spoke about the Finance and Facilities committee meeting that took place on September 13th. They spoke all of the upgrades and the work that was done over the summer. They spoke about moving forward, the five year facilities plan, and short term needs.
- Mr. Sim spoke about the Personnel and Management committee meeting that took place on September 13th. They discussed statistics of employees in different categories and job description updates. He also stated that on October 17th there will be a fact finding meeting on negotiations in which the Personnel Committee is involved.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of September 6, 2017.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for September 2017 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the list on file in the district office of pupil records maintained in the district for the 2017-2018 school year. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education accept the District Nursing Services Plan for the 2017-2018 school year.
5. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the Policies and Regulations for the Series 1000 and 2000, with the exception of policy #'s 1200, 1313, and 2130. (Addendum)
6. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill School	5	Fort Lee Historic Park Fort Lee, NJ	\$576.00
New Bridge Center	Pre-k	Demarest Farms Hillsdale, NJ	\$0

7. That the Board of Education approve the authorization of the submission of the ESEA application for Fiscal Year 2018, and accepts the grant award of these funds upon the subsequent approval of the Fiscal Year 2018 ESEA Application.

Grants
Title II River Edge-\$9,598 Non-Public-\$9,666 Total-\$19,264
Title III River Edge-\$17,906 Non-Public-\$1,092 Total-\$18,998
Title III Immigrant River Edge-\$2,874 Non-Public-\$380 Total-\$3,254
Title IV River Edge-\$4,982 Non-Public-\$5,018 Total-\$10,000

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

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

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

C. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the agreement for the River Edge Board of Education to provide technology services and supplies to the following Non-public Schools for the 2017-2018 school year:

St. Peter's Academy
Sinai School at RYNJ
Yeshiva of North Jersey
Stepping Stone Learning Center
New Beginnings at Grace Lutheran

2. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 school year attendance of specific student at Cherry Hill or Roosevelt School which is other than their customary neighborhood school, as on file in the District Office.

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

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

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated August, 2017 totaling \$385,477.96 including checks #40068 through #40070.
2. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2017 totaling \$782,132.40 including checks #40071 through #40253.

3. Payrolls date July 14, 2017 and July 31, 2017 totaling \$441,211.92 and Payrolls dated August 15, 2017, and August 31, 2017 totaling \$280,314.52 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list to be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2017-2018 as of July 31, 2017 and August 31, 2017. (Addendum)
5. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending July 31, 2017 and August 31, 2017.

Further, we certify that as of July 31, 2017 and August 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 overexpended 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)

6. That the Board of Education approve a donation from Sesame Street for ten Amazon Fire Kids Edition Tablets in the amount of \$990.00.
7. That the River Edge Board of Education accept the 2016-2017 Audit and approve the submission of the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) submitted by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins with the following recommendations:

- I. Administrative Practices and Procedures
None
- II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
It is recommended all salary related liabilities be accrued at June 30.
- III. School Purchasing Program
None
- IV. School Food Services
None
- V. Student Body Activities
None
- VI. Application for State School Aid
None
- VII. Pupil Transportation
None
- VIII. Facilities and Capital Assets
None
- IX. Miscellaneous
None

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

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Tara Vernieri, School Nurse, BA step 11, for the 2017-2018 school year.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Briana Rizzi, Part-time Resource Teacher, BA+15 step 5, for the 2017-2018 school year.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Pamela Menzel, Part-time Aide, for the 2017-2018 school year.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Luis Cruz, Cherry Hill and Mark Jentz, Roosevelt as Lead Custodians for the 2017-2018 school year, as per contract.
5. That the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 for the 2017-2018 school year.
6. That the Board of Education approve Beth Rosen, Homeless Student Liaison, for the River Edge School District for the 2017-2018 school year.
7. That the Board of Education approve Beth Rosen, HIB Coordinator, for the River Edge School District for the 2017-2018 school year.
8. That the Board of Education approve Rosemary Kuruc, Mental Health Liaison, for the River Edge School District for the 2017-2018 school year.
9. That the Board of Education approve Maria Pepe as the Primary Project Aide for the 2017-2018 School Year.
10. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for student Field Experience to consist of 20 hours in a General Education Classroom to commence on or about September 28, 2017 through December 15, 2017.

Marissa Conti

11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Veronica Kim to commence on or about January 16, 2018 through February 23, 2018, to be followed by a Federal/State Family leave of absence/Child Care Leave to commence on or about February 26, 2018, through June 30, 2018.
12. That the Board of Education approve the following staff members for Curriculum Work at a rate of \$50.00 per hour.

Teacher	Hours
Ashley Clark (replacing previously approved June Karpowich)	3
Kristen Corcoran	3
Ashley Denn	3

13. That the Board of Education approve Kaitlyn DeVasto for Cycle I of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2017-2018 School Year. Salary to be determined upon the ratification and approval of the negotiated REEA Agreement.

14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following as substitute teachers for the 2017-18 school year.

Melissa Ceppaglia
Simona Georgali DiFranco
Sharmaine Joseph
Antoinette Kofler
Steven Luca
Francine McClellan
Jake Rizer
Mary Weixel-Martin
Benedict Usoro

15. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Mary Bruno, Part-time Aide for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated August, 2017 totaling \$26,167.50 including checks #68690 through #68787.
2. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2017 totaling \$706,601.50 including checks #68788 through #68928.
3. That the Board of Education approve the 2017-2018 Joint Transportation Agreement between South Bergen Jointure Commission (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
4. 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.

Deborah Goldberg	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant
Laurie R. Gopin	Occupational Therapist
Manuel Diaz	Home Program Coordinator

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sim attended the Korean Parent Network Meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017. Parents asked about receiving text messages regarding upcoming school events.

Mrs. Myers asked Mrs. Napolitano if she would like to participate in the Board Evaluations.

Mrs. Napolitano declined because she was not with the district last year and the evaluations are based on the 2016-2017 school year.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Christine O'Keefe, Teacher, suggested the company Remind for text messages regarding school events.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session at 8:53 PM.

All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene the regular public meeting at 9:25 PM.

All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator