

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 13, 2018

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

Mr. Busteed read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danksy, Mr. Herbst, Mr. Koth, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel, and approximately 14 members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Presentation of Proclamation by Assemblyman Chris Tully and Assemblywoman Lisa Swain

Assemblyman Chris Tully and Assemblywoman Lisa Swain introduced themselves and came to honor Mr. Busteed and Mr. Koth. Ms. Swain read parts of Mr. Koth's Proclamation and Mr. Tully read parts of Mr. Busteed's Proclamation. They expressed their gratitude to both board members for their service to the community of River Edge as School Board Members and commended them for their giving of their time and talents.

Michael Koth, Board Member Recognition

The following resolution was read and a plaque and framed resolution was given to Mr. Koth

***WHEREAS,** Michael Koth has served as a member of the River Edge Board of Education from 2016 to 2018, and*

***WHEREAS,** in his leadership role he worked closely and continuously with all River Edge Constituencies to sustain and improve the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** his professional knowledge and expertise helped educate the public about the needs, security operations, policies, and the upkeep of our buildings and grounds and challenges of the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** during his tenure of office he gave generously of his time and talents in fulfilling his responsibilities in this role and in the continuance of the tradition of educational excellence in the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** his dedication to the improvement of the educational program, his on-going efforts related to effective communication, curriculum development, and his caring for River Edge students, staff, and families have had a tremendously positive influence on the well-being of our children and their continuing growth, and*

***WHEREAS,** his outstanding community service and special attention to the youth of River Edge are gratefully acknowledged;*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this Thirteenth day of December, Two Thousand and Eighteen, spread upon its minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for his valued service and leadership.*

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

Colin Busted, Board Member Recognition

The following resolution was read and a plaque and framed resolution was given to Mr. Busted

***WHEREAS,** Colin Busted has served as a member of the River Edge Board of Education from 2009 to 2018, and*

***WHEREAS,** in his leadership role he worked closely and continuously with all River Edge Constituencies to sustain and improve the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** his professional knowledge and expertise helped educate the public about the needs, operations, personnel, buildings and grounds and financial challenges of the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** during his tenure of office he gave generously of his time and talents in fulfilling his responsibilities in this role and in the continuance of the tradition of educational excellence in the River Edge School District, and*

***WHEREAS,** during his tenure on the Board he played an important role in numerous labor negotiations and contributed to the achievement of mutually acceptable agreements between parties, and*

***WHEREAS,** his outstanding service and special attention to the youth of River Edge are gratefully acknowledged, and*

***WHEREAS,** he has remained dedicated to the ideals of the role of the Board in the achievement of educational excellence while being fiscally responsible;*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this Thirteenth day of December, Two Thousand and Eighteen spread upon its minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for his valued service and leadership.*

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Mr. Koth

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Koth, Seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 8:06 PM to discuss a legal matter.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, Seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene the regular public meeting at 8:50 PM.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Winter Concerts are taking place this month. Roosevelt's will be held on December 19th at 2:00 pm and Cherry Hill's will be held on December 20th at 1:30 pm. We are very busy with interviews and demo lessons for unexpected early maternity leaves.
- Dr. Ben-Dov shared some good news. Girls Who Code is starting in January. It is a club for fourth grade girls, at both schools, during lunch and is run by the Librarians. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Mr. Nevin Werner for organizing this.
- Mrs. Dent and her Music Club sang for the Senior Center at Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge on December 3rd, and the seniors in attendance were delighted.
- The Legislators cancelled their visit to our school on December 12th. They re-scheduled for December 19th but had to cancel that date as well. Dr. Ben-Dov will wait for them to reschedule at the beginning of January.
- Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about report cards and conferences. She stated conferences took place on the week of Thanksgiving, which wasn't the end of the term yet. The Parent Portal opened on December 10th. She wanted to see if parents felt they needed an extra conference or this time frame was okay. She gathered some statistics from the Principals. Only two parents, to date, have requested another conference. Dr. Ben-Dov learned at her Second Cup of Coffee that a parent said they were in a little bit of shock because the information presented at the conference was not as strong as the report card. Other parents felt there was a gap but most didn't complain about it. Dr. Ben-Dov reviewed three options with the Board of when to have conferences. One option came from the REEA, and they suggested having conferences the week of Election Day/Teachers Convention. The second option was to continue to have it the week of Thanksgiving, and the third option was to go back and have conferences along with the report card in December when the first third of the year is concluded. The board had a discussion on this, but a recommendation wasn't made. Dr. Ben-Dov will have a discussion with the administrators and let the board know what they recommend as the new calendar is presented.
- Dr. Ben-Dov wished everyone Happy Holidays

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- We have been planning our 100th Anniversary Gala since the summer. Our committee has met four times and the event is beginning to come together. It will be on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 PM. There will be performances by the chorus and the band along with a few short speeches. A Roosevelt museum will be arranged in the Old Gym highlighting the school's artifacts. Prior to the start of the event, we will be offering student run tours of the school to our guests.
- Casey Aday welcomed a boy named Wyatt.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve the amendments to the FY 19 IDEA Grant for carryover funds
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve the amendments to the FY 19 Title Grant for carryover over funds
- The architect is working on plans for the Air Conditioning at Roosevelt School Gymnasium and it is being sent to the Department of Education for approval.
- The new telephone system is up and running in all of the classrooms
- Mrs. Napolitano spoke with Dario Chinigo regarding the Interlocal Agreement. She doesn't have anything yet to bring to the board, but it is progressing.

PRESIDENT

- Mrs. Myers spoke with Dario Chinigo, the liaison for the River Edge Board of Education, about the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Chinigo proposed the River Edge Board of Education have a joint meeting with the Mayor and Council to hash out all the issues and to have a system of communication between for us for the future.
- Mrs. Myers has announced she has decided to not seek the office of President for 2019 school year and to become a trustee
- Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Mrs. Myers for working closely with her and being supportive during the past six years. She mentioned how important a strong relationship between a Superintendent and a Board President is. She stated that they accomplished a lot and resolved many legal and sensitive issues together.

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 28, 2018.

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for December 2018 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 5, 2018 Lock down November 29, 2018 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	November 5, 2018 Lock down November 30, 2018 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. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education is meeting in public session on December 13, 2018.

WHEREAS, certain business transactions must necessarily be addressed during the hiatus of public sessions of the Board, including but not limited to, the offering of contracts of employment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to offer contracts of employment on behalf of the Board between December 13, 2018 and January 7, 2019 subject to final approval of the Board at the next Regular Public Meeting.

6. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB reports previously reported at the November 14, 2018 Board Meeting.
7. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB reports previously reported at the November 28, 2018 Board Meeting.

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Mr. Koth

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

Language has been modified for resolution 8

8. **WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools has requested that the Board disenroll a student whose name is on file in the Board office (the "Student") based upon information that the Student is not entitled to a tuition free education from the Board; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 28, 2018, the Superintendent provided the Student's parent with notice of her right to a disenrollment hearing in the event that she did not agree with the Superintendent's recommendation; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of December 13, 2018 the Student's parent requested an appeal of a disenrollment hearing before the board and the board granted such a hearing, although it was after the date and time as outlined in the letter; and

WHEREAS, at the hearing the administration presented evidence in support of the Superintendent's recommendation to disenroll the Student; and

WHEREAS, the parent presented evidence and argument to the Board in support of her contention that the Student is domiciled in River Edge; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the entire record as presented by the administration and by the parent; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Student's parent has not met the burden under the statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, to establish that the Student is entitled to a tuition free education from the Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student shall be disenrolled from the River Edge School District 21 days from the date hereof; provided, however, that if the Student's parent contests the Board's decision before the Commissioner of Education within 21 days of receiving the notice of disenrollment, then the Student shall remain enrolled in the District while the appeal is pending before the Commissioner of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence of the filing of an appeal, the Student's parent may be assessed tuition and any special services provided to the Student, depending on the type and degree of the service(s), for said Student's attendance in the District during the period the Board has found the Student ineligible for a tuition-free education from the Board.

Motion by Mr. Koth
Seconded by Mr. Herbst

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated December 2018, totaling \$807,594.42 including checks #41727 through #41784.
Payrolls dated November 15, 2018 and November 30, 2018, totaling \$1,195,695.20 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 19 IDEA Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Basic IDEA - Public	\$70.00
Basic IDEA - Non-public	\$16,944.00
Preschool IDEA-Public	\$7,289.00
Preschool IDEA-Non-Public	\$3,334.00

3. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 19 Title Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Title I	\$7,378.00
Title II-Public	\$1,126.00
Title II-Non-Public	\$1,119.00
Title III-Public	\$3,383.00
Title III -Non-Public	\$296.00
Title III Immigrant –Public	\$522.00
Title III Immigrant -Non-Public	\$84.00
Title IV Public	\$517.00
Title IV Non-Public	\$515.00

Motion by Mr. Herbst
Seconded by Mr. Sim

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Mr. Busted, 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, appoint Julie Rabinowitz, as the District Liaison to the Board of the River Edge Public Library for the 2018-2019 school year.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following as substitute clerical Aides for the 2018-2019 school year.

Donna Allingham
Joann Baxter
Lynn Weimir

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Jessica Jablin, Leave Replacement Teacher, BA, Step 1, effective on December 13, 2018 through April 12, 2019.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Ashley Suarez, Leave Replacement Teacher, BA, Step 1, effective on or about December 17, 2018 through May 22, 2019.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Eugenia Lantigua Tavarez, Lunch Aide, for the 2018-2019 school year.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Paige Seifert to commence on or about December 17, 2018 through January 4, 2019, to be followed by a Federal/State Family leave of absence to commence on or about January 7, 2019 through February 8, 2019.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Courtney Sweet, from part-time (0.5) Teacher to full-time Teacher beginning on December 10, 2018.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve SWING Education to serve as an agency to provide supplemental substitute personnel when those needs cannot be met through our approved substitute pool for the 2018-19 school year as per the signed service agreement.

9. That the Board of Education approve Caitlin Callahan for Morning Supervision Duty as per Article XIII Section 13.3 of the River Edge Education Association Contract Agreement.
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Jessica Jablin and Jennifer Giammarella as Substitute Teachers for the 2018-2019 school year.
11. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Cheyenne Mullen, Part-time 504 Aide, effective December 21, 2018.
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Sharon Bene, Part-time 504 Aide, starting January 2, 2019 through June 30, 2019.
13. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Alyssa Jahren, Teacher, effective December 21, 2018.
14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Nureem Alrashdan as a Student Teacher, from January 7, 2019 through April 5, 2019.
15. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Nureem Alrashdan as a Substitute Teacher for the 2018-2019 School Year.
16. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Jennifer Giammarella, Leave Replacement Teacher, MA, Step 3, effective January 2, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

Motion by Mr. Sim
 Seconded by Mr. Busted

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated December 2018 totaling \$1,005,323.96 including checks #71191 through #71325.
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, re-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 2018-2019 school year:

Fairleigh Dickinson University Neuro-psychological evals Evaluator

Motion by Mr. Busted
 Seconded by Ms. Dansky

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky asked about the cost for the NSBA 2019 Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sim asked if we have generators on the premises and the protocol for use.

Mr. Sim attended a workshop on Social Media Scan.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION -None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Koth to adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:41 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator