

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 27, 2019

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. Herbst called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers Mr. Sim, and Mr. Herbst. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman and approximately 20 members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

There will be a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a contractual and personnel matter.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Presentation of Grant by Columbia Bank Representatives

Mr. Tom Kemly, Mr. Rich Graff, Mr. John Flores, and Mrs. Minoska Mateo

Four representatives from the Columbia Bank Foundation presented the River Edge Board of Education with a \$15,000 grant. Dr. Ben-Dov stated the District will use this money for safety and proactive programs for mental health. The Board Members and the Administrators thanked Columbia Bank for this generous donation.

School Climate Survey - Mrs. Beth Rosen

Mrs. Rosen presented to the Board the School Climate Survey that was taken in the Fall of 2018. This survey is designed to collect and analyze objective information from various stakeholders about school climate. The goal is to help the stakeholders in River Edge Schools understand and improve safe and supportive conditions for learning. Students, staff, and parents took a survey of ten questions each designed for each constituency. The results of the survey, which were very positive, were discussed and Mrs. Rosen answered all questions asked by the Board members and audience.

Short term option to accommodate increased enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year

Dr. Ben-Dov stated we have explored many options for our short-term space challenges at Cherry Hill School and the Finance and Facilities Committee shared their recommendation. At the Finance and Facilities meeting they discussed the options and decided to eliminate the center area of the Cherry Hill School Library to create an additional classroom. This option allows for us to utilize our existing space. There are two options the board will need to discuss and decide on tonight. One option is for the classroom size to be 20'2 x 20'6 and the other is for the classroom size to be 24'5 x 20'6 with a window. The board discussed and decided on 24'5 x 20'6 and to have a window in the classroom.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Our New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) monitoring day was on Tuesday, February 26th. It is monitored by the State. They monitor everything that goes on in our school district. Different people worked with the Administrators on Curriculum and Instruction, Finance, Governance, Personnel, and Operations. They will send their findings to the Commissioner and then in approximately two months we will get our results. We did get fantastic verbal feedback and the monitors were very pleased overall. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked all the staff that was involved with preparing for QSAC. She stated everyone worked very hard.
- The Board needs to make a decision tonight on the 2018-2019 school year calendar. There are three unused emergency closing/snow days that need to be given back. Dr. Ben-Dov suggested completing the school year on Friday, June 21st with one session day for that day and giving back Monday, June 24th and Friday, June 25th. She also suggested extending the Memorial Day Weekend with having off on either Friday, May 24th or Tuesday, May 28th. The Board had a discussion and agreed on ending the school year on June 21st and eliminating Friday, May 24th. A letter and revised calendar will go home to the parents tomorrow.
- Dr. Ben-Dov reported on a HIB Incident. The potential HIB was reported by a parent of a Fifth Grade student at Cherry Hill School on March 18th. There were several incidents reported of verbal, racial comments and physical abuse against the victim by another student. These incidents occurred from November 2018 through March 2019. A huge effort was made to conduct the investigation and it was found to be a HIB. The families were notified and action against the students took place. The consequences were sessions with the Pupil Assistance Counselor, separation of students for the remainder of the school year, writing of an essay condemning racial remarks and describing the impact of the victim, writing a letter of apology, detentions, and parent conferences. There will be a resolution on the next agenda to affirm this decision.
- State testing is approaching. The schedule for New Jersey Student Learning Standard Assessment (NJSLSA) for ELA and Math is: grades 3 and 4 April 29th through May 3rd, grades 5 and 6 May 6th through May 10th. Science, Fifth Grade only, on May 14th and May 15th.
- We are pursuing the adoption of a Social and Emotional program for next year. Ms. Christine Moran is attending a national workshop conference in Nashville next week. She is hoping Ms. Moran comes back with some good information.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Cherry Hill School had a very successful Family Carnival Night on March 7th. We had a great attendance with 106 guests visiting. There were many games created by our CREATE students that evening.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were well attended
- ACCESS testing for ESL students is going well
- The Sixth Grade had a Health Fair on Friday, March 15th with wellness activities, sun safety, circuit fitness, and hands (only) CPR
- A few teachers had CPR training in both schools
- NBC had a Penguin Assembly on Tuesday, March 26th. The kids had a blast and enjoyed learning about penguins
- April is Autism Awareness month and the schools have some activities planned
- The Cherry Hill School Tricky Tray will be held on April 4th at the Edgewood Country Club

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano read a thank you card from Judy Albrizio thanking the Board Members for a lovely evening and beautiful bouquet of flowers for her retirement.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to approve the Emergency Notification System and the Paging System for the District.
- Our QSAC visit went well yesterday. We are waiting for the final report.

PRESIDENT

- Mr. Herbst stated it was great to see so many students here tonight at the Board of Education meeting. He congratulated all the students that were selected for the Student Board Meeting and asked each to introduce themselves.
- The Board Retreat will be on June 15th. We are planning and discussing topics, location, and trainings.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Finance and Facilities meeting that took place on March 19th. She stated they discussed the proposed offer from Mr. DiCara to prepare a facility condition assessment of the buildings.
- Ms. Brown spoke about the Curriculum and Instruction meeting that took place tonight before the board meeting. They discussed QSAC, Instructional Rounds, River Edge Academy for Learning, and STEAM. Ms. Brown was very pleased with the reports that were presented.

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of March 13, 2019.

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Ms. Doyle

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None, Abstained Mrs. Myers

2. That the Board of Education approve the Revised River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion by Ms. Doyle
Seconded by Mrs. Myers

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill	5	Bear Mountain Trailside Zoo Stony Point, NY	\$600.00
Roosevelt	5	Bear Mountain Trailside Zoo Stony Point, NY	\$600.00

Motion by Mrs. Myers
Seconded by Ms. Kang

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. Whereas, the River Edge Board of Education award the contract for the Emergency Notification System ESCNJ Bid Contract #18/19-16 to Eastern Datacomm in the amount of \$49,809.44 for Cherry Hill, New Bridge Center and Roosevelt Schools.
2. Whereas, the River Edge Board of Education award the contract for the Paging System ESCNJ Bid Contract #18/19-16 to Eastern Datacomm in the amount of \$65,840.00 for Cherry Hill, New Bridge Center and Roosevelt Schools.
3. That the Board of Education approve the appropriation of 2018-2019 increased state aid in the amount of \$3,450.00 to 9-11-000-262-420 Maintenance Services.
4. That the Board of Education approve the appropriation of 2018-2019 increased state aid in the amount of \$26,708.67 to 9-12-000-260-730 Building and Grounds Equipment.

Motion by Ms. Kang
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

5. That the Board of Education approve to go out to quote for the proposed Option 2 (with window) Media Center Renovation at Cherry Hill School prepared by DiCara/Rubino Architects.

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Mr. Sim

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2019 totaling \$556,426.25 including checks #41998 through #42087. Payrolls dated February 15, 2019 and February 28, 2019, totaling \$1,189,985.29 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2018-2019 as of January 31, 2019. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2019.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2019 after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (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 Budget Transfers for the school year 2018-2019 as of February 28, 2019. (Addendum)
5. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending February 28, 2019.

Further, we certify that as of February 28, 2019 after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (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)

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2018-2019 School Year at the REBOE/REEA CBA hourly rate:

Cherry Hill

Caitlin Callahan
Rebecca DelPriore
Noy Frasciello
Katie O'Reilly
Andrea Siclari

Roosevelt

Cassandra McGovern
Alexandra McNeil
Wendy Otis
Colleen Poole
Lauren Proda

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Heather Alonso-Utsch as a Substitute Teacher for the 2018-2019 school year.
3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Zheni Orellana, Part-time Instructional Aide/Lunch Aide, effective March 29, 2019.
4. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Janice Hubbard, Transportation Coordination at Region V as of June 28, 2019 (Addendum)
5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Wendy Cassidy, Special Education Teacher, effective June 25, 2019.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Ashley Clark to commence on or about June 10, 2019 through June 30, 2019, followed by a Federal/State Family leave of absence to commence on or about September 1, 2019 through November 22, 2019 and to continue with a Child Care leave of absence through June 30, 2020.

Motion by Ms. Brown

Seconded by Ms. Doyle

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2019 totaling \$1,061,705.89 including checks #71634 through #71795.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2018-2019 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2726	Honor Ridge Academy	\$380.00

3. That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region V (Host) and Stanhope Board of Education. (Joiner)

Motion by Ms. Doyle
Seconded by Mrs. Myers

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst
Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky asked for dates for a Board of Education Special Meeting, with no action to be taken, for a meeting with DiCara and Rubino Architects to review Long Range Plans. The possible dates are May 29th and June 10th. We will reach out to see if DiCara and Rubino have either of these dates available.

Ms. Dansky stated our legislators will not be attending the Bergen County School Boards Meeting; however it is a good opportunity to reach out and talk to other legislators.

Mr. Herbst, Ms. Dansky, and Mr. Sim will be attending the Pennsylvania Convention Center Workshop on March 30th. They asked if anyone has anything special they would like to like for them to investigate to please let them know. Dr. Ben-Dov asked that they look into good social media practices and social emotional programming.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Sarvesvaran Vivekanandan, Sixth Grade Student, asked about the purpose of the gavel.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 9:34 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:08 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator