

# **RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

## **Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 24, 2019 – 7:30 PM**

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the New Bridge Center Project Room, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Mrs. Myers read the Mission Statement.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

Ms. Brown arrived at 7:40 PM

Ms. Doyle arrived at 7:40 PM

### **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 legal matter.

### **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 Proposed School Budget-Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Napolitano

Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Napolitano presented the 2019-2020 School Year Budget to the public (Addendum). Dr. Ben-Dov explained that the Board voted on the tentative budget in March and the budget was approved by the County Office in April. Tonight is the Public Hearing. The Board reviewed and approved the submission of the Final Budget. Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Napolitano explained each slide and answered all questions that were asked.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- State testing begins next week and we have many cultural events taking place. One of the events is the Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School Art Show that will be held tomorrow at 7:00 PM in both schools.

- Dr. Ben-Dov gave a follow up report from our Student Board Meeting. She stated two things we are able to implement immediately are: (1). A box that students will be able to tell us what is on their minds. The students can share with the teachers without other students knowing. We will start this May 1<sup>st</sup>. (2). The suggestion to have students who are closer to their age speak to them about the dangers of social media will be implemented soon. River Dell students are available to do that.
- Each school has identified and submitted their personnel needs for next school year. We have ads out, interviews, and demos are starting.
- All non-tenured summaries will be completed by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The non-tenured review for the Board will be on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Ben-Dov reported on a potential HIB Incident. The potential HIB was reported by a Sixth Grader at Cherry Hill School on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Verbal comments were made to the student by another Sixth Grader. There were many comments and incidents between the students. The incident was investigated and it was found not to be HIB related. Consequences were given in accordance with the River Edge Code of Conduct.
- Dr. Ben-Dov reported on a HIB Incident. It was reported by a Cherry Hill School Mother of a Sixth Grader on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Verbal comments that referred to race and color were made to the student by several Sixth Grade students during the months of February and March. It was investigated and found to be HIB related. Consequences were given in accordance with the River Edge Code of Conduct.
- The Teacher of the Year Committee met today and a Teacher of the Year was selected for each school. They will be announced tomorrow during school. They will be honored at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting and a county luncheon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Over 40 students from Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School participated in the preliminary qualification round of the Science Championship Contest. We had eight students qualify and participate in the regional qualifications at the New Jersey Aviation Museum on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Three out of the eight students qualified for the National Science Championship in Atlanta Georgia in June. They are: John Kim, Ashish Panicker, and Sarvesvaran Vivekanandan. Dr. Ben-Dov is so proud of these students.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mrs. Heitman stated she was so proud of our sixth grade students in the science competition
- The Cherry Hill School Book Fair and Art Show will be on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Arbor Day Celebrations will take place for both schools on April 26<sup>th</sup>
- NJSLA Assessments for grades 3 and 4 will begin next week

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano reported on an update from Mr. Joe Dicara regarding the Cherry Hill School Library. We will have quotes by approximately May 13th.

- The Pre-construction meeting took place for the HVAC Unit at Roosevelt School. Mrs. Napolitano will give an update on that in the committee meeting.
- The Paging System was upgraded and additional safety items during the Spring Recess. Mrs. Napolitano will give an update on that in the committee meeting.

**PRESIDENT**

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- The Board Retreat will be on June 15th at Fairleigh Dickinson University. There will not be a cost to use their facility, but we will need to use their dining services for food. The schedule is all set for this event.
- Mr. Herbst read a thank you card from Christine Moran thanking the Board Members for allowing her to attend the AASA Social and Emotional Learning Cohort in Nashville, TN. She explained her positive experience there in the card.
- Mr. Herbst, Ms. Dansky, and Mr. Sim attended the NSBA Conference from March 30th - April 1<sup>st</sup>, in Philadelphia, PA.
- Mr. Herbst will attend the NJSBA County Association Leadership Meeting Weekend from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup> in Princeton, New Jersey. The program is called GPS for Visionary Leadership.

**COMMITTEES' REPORTS**

No Committee Reports at this Meeting

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of April 10, 2019.

Motion by Ms. Brown  
 Seconded by Ms. Doyle

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for April 2019 including relevant mileage reimbursement.
3. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill and Roosevelt	5/6 Art Club	Storm King Sculpture Park New Windsor, NY	\$300.00

4. That the Board of Education post approve Christine Moran to attend AASA Social and Emotional Learning Cohort in Nashville, TN, on March 31, 2019 to April 2, 2019, with prior notice to the Board Members.

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

**B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** -None

**C. BUILDING & GROUNDS** - None

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2019 totaling \$603,934.27 including checks #42088 through #42158 (Addendum). Payrolls dated March 15, 2019 and March 29, 2019, totaling \$1,165,983.77, issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes (Addendum).
2. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
3. That the Board of Education approve to move \$32,500 from Capital Reserve to Fund 12 for professional service fees for the HVAC project at Roosevelt School for the upcoming 2019-2020 budget to be reimbursed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the Final 2019-2020 School Year Budget as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$19,587,966	\$15,717,050
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$1,200,937	N/A
Total Debt Service	\$1,416,700	\$1,200,316
Total	\$22,205,603	

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Board of Education requests the approval of a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$364,075. The District intends to utilize \$364,075 for the HVAC Upgrade at Roosevelt Elementary School Gymnasium.

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

## **E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nestor Ortiz, Region V Transportation Coordinator, starting on or about, May 8, 2019 through June 30, 2019, pending final paperwork.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a Personal Leave of Absence for Janice Hubbard effective May 8, 2019.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Jessica Jablin, Leave Replacement Teacher, BA, Step 1, effective on April 25, 2019 through June 30, 2019.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the extended Child Care Leave of Absence for Donna Lindsay for the 2019-2020 school year.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Mary Ann Picardi, Lunch Aide, for the 2018-2019 school year.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Kristin Joyce as a Substitute Nurse for the 2018-2019 School Year.
7. That the Board of Education approve \$3,500 compensation for Chris Armen, as Director of the 2019 summer enrichment Program.
8. That the Board of Education approve June Karpowich, Clerical Assistant, at a stipend of \$1,250 for the Summer Enrichment 2019 Program.
9. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Enrichment Program teacher hourly rate to be \$33.00 for Summer 2019.
10. That the Board of Education approve the 2019 Summer Enrichment Program with a tuition rate of \$75.00 per enrichment class.
11. That the Board of Education approve Abby Burns-Paterson for the Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2018-2019 School Year at the REBOE/REEA CBA hourly rate.
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Katherina Hronic, college student, to observe grade six classroom lessons for a maximum of 10 hours to commence on or about April 25, 2019 through May 23, 2019.
13. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nathalie Sterling, Lunch Aide, for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve a Tuition Contract with the CTC Academy in Oakland, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office. Transportation will be provided through Region V. The tuition rates are as follows:

\$85,490.00 2018 - 2019 School Year  
\$415.00 Per Diem Rate

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

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2019 totaling \$1,308,397.58 including checks #71796 through #71939 (Addendum).
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2018-2019 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2680	Destiny 23	\$192.00
2694	Destiny 23	\$243.00
2697	Destiny 23	\$175.00
2702	Destiny 23	\$238.00
2731	R&V Transportation	\$238.00
2720	RC Prime Transportation LLC	\$168.00
2732	RC Prime Transportation LLC	\$330.00
2669	Sun Transport	\$210.00
2725	Sun Transport	\$195.00
2727	Sun Transport	\$179.00
2728	Sun Transport	\$159.00
2724	Triumph Invalid Coach	\$310.00
2723	We Care School Trans	\$299.00

3. That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Jersey City Public Schools (Host) and Region V/River Edge BOE. (Joiner)
4. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region I Mahwah (Host) and Region V/River Edge BOE. (Joiner)
5. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between South Bergen Jointure Commission (Host) and Region V/River Edge BOE. (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, 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:

Blue Ribbon Assessment LLC	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant	Evaluations
Shoop SBA, LLC	Transportation	Consultant

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

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Dansky reported on presentations she attended at the National conference:

LGBTQ – She met with and spoke to an administrator in California that held the workshop. It was very insightful.

Donors Choose organization – crowd funding site for teachers – support K-12 schools, request extra resources, to support the needs of teachers and students. The headquarters is located in Manhattan.

Dr. BenDov said she would invite them to speak to administrators and teachers.

Climate study – we have had many presentations on climate studies – organizations that do an external climate study should be considered – A National nonprofit organization was discussed.

Mr. Herbst – reported that he spoke to a Board Member there who said they send two members with criteria-based credentials to attend the conferences.

Ms. Brown – said thank you so much for attending and taking the time for exploring and looking at different ideas for the district.

Mr. Herbst attended curricular based program which he will discuss first in the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

Ms. Dansky stated she would like to attend the NJSBA Special Education Symposium on May 13th in West Windsor, NJ.

Mr. Sim attended the national conference and spoke about all the different classes he attended especially one dealing with building student resilience.

Dr. Ben Dov spoke about the SPAN meeting and asked if a Board Member can attend the meeting on May 14th. Ms. Dansky said she would check her calendar and let Dr. Ben-Dov know if she can attend.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session at 9:25 PM.

**RECONVENE**

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:03 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator