

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 8, 2019 – 6:30 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

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Doyle arrived at 7:25 PM
Mrs. Myers was absent

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, Seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 6:30 PM for the review of non-tenured personnel.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Brown, Seconded by Ms. Kang to reconvene the regular Public Meeting at 7:34 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Doyle read the Mission Statement.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items – none

District Performance Report – Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Christine Moran

Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Moran presented to the Board the District Performance Report for the 2017-2018 School Year. Dr. Ben-Dov started the presentation with an introduction and then they went over the District Summary Report, Cherry Hill School Summary Report, Roosevelt School Summary Report, Overview of Performance on Accountability Indicators for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, How is a Specific Student Group Performing in our District, Progress towards English Language Proficiency, Demographic Information, Student Safety in the District, Early Childhood Education in the District, Student Supports and Services, and the demographics of students and teaching staff in district. Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the diversity of the student population in district and efforts and commitment to enrich staff diversity. They provided information where you can find the Performance Reports. All questions were answered.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- This is Teacher Appreciation Week. Dr. Ben-Dov wants to express her gratitude on behalf of the River Edge community to the entire staff. She greatly appreciates what everyone does for the River Edge students. The PTO's, Administrators, and students are showing their gratitude to the staff in different ways. She thanked everyone, teachers and support staff, for all they do.
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) are ongoing at this time. Assessments for grades 3 and 4 were completed last week and grades 5 and 6 are taking place this week. All is going well, with a few minor technological issues. There was a total of five refusals for the testing, which is reduced from previous years.
- All non-tenured personnel will receive their renewal letters this week
- Interviews and demo lessons are taking place every day for positions for the 2019-2020 school year. We received approximately 125 resumes for the Assistant Principal position. Dr. Ben-Dov has set up 12 interviews and will then narrow down to bring four back for a second interview with a group. She will bring two candidates to the board.
- There was a Poetry Contest Awards Night on the evening of April 30th at the River Edge Public Library. Dr. Ben-Dov commended the Library for doing this for a third year in a row. Janet Wong, our Author-in-Residence was also part of the program. We had many winners, three winners in each grade level from grades 2-6, and their names will be published in the River Edge digital newsletter. She thanked the administrators and the librarians for attending and for encouraging poetry writing.
- The County Administration suggested Superintendents report to the board members on goal achievements. Dr. Ben-Dov wanted to do this and shared District goal number 5, the Cohesive Goal. She stated we have done a lot in the past eight years to make the schools more cohesive. This school year we have formalized more cohesion in the following areas: safety protocols and procedures, revision of field days, school schedules, parent visitations, sixth grade events, PTO activities, and various school wide activities. She will share the full write up with the Board tomorrow.
- Dr. Ben-Dov reported on our First Class communications. She stated that due to ongoing difficulties with it, we are looking into possibly changing it. The team is looking into the pros and cons of switching. A decision should be made over the summer.
- Social Emotional Functioning will be a goal for next school year. We are starting with the suggestions from the Student Board Meeting from April 10th. The Principals shared, at their staff meetings, protocols that Ms. Moran and the Pupil Assistant Counselors worked on with a box that students will be able to tell us what is on their minds. There was a good Climate Meeting yesterday and it was reported that the teachers seemed happy and willing to do this. This will begin on Monday, May 13th. The suggestion to have students who are closer to their age speak to them about the dangers of social media will be implemented soon. The Principals will set up smaller assemblies and the River Dell students will talk to them.
- As part of our social emotional programming we are looking into Responsive Classroom Training. The Principals and some teachers will be trained during the summer. We will bring someone in for a full day to do training for grades K-2 teachers in September.
- Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Moran believe that more needs to happen with the upper grades and would like to participate in the Social Emotional Cohort to discuss and review programs with district leaders from across the country.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Tomorrow will be the second to last day of NJSLA testing for grades 5 and 6. Grades 3 and 4 are complete and the last make-ups for 3 and 4 were completed today. Testing will continue next week with make-ups and fifth grade science testing.
- The second grade put on their second annual State Fair. Students were separated by region in the New Gym. Students conducted research, presented materials, and dressed up in something related to their state. They gave a speech about their states. It was well attended by parents.
- Ms. Attardi did an amazing job at the art show. There were at least two pieces of artwork by each student in the schools. The show was well attended.
- Teacher appreciation is this week. A huge thank you to the PTO for their amazing lunch on Monday. Mr. Henzel will be continuing his tradition of providing something for the staff with a Chick-Fil-A day on Friday.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano and Dr. Ben-Dov have met with the new Borough Administrator Raymond Poerio. Some work has been done on the field at Roosevelt School and we have had on-going discussions about the fields which will be discussed in closed session.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst attended the NJSBA County Association Leadership Meeting this past weekend. They had great sessions and found it very informative. One thing he learned about was documenting Committee Meetings. He passed around a report of board committee's sheet that he received during the workshop. He suggested we write out reports for our Committee Meetings.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Brown spoke about the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting that took place on April 29th. They spoke about the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports, and the National Cohort for Social and Emotional Learning that Ms. Moran attended.
- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting that took place on April 29th. They spoke about security upgrades, the HVAC at Roosevelt School, the Pre-Construction Meeting, updates on the Cherry Hill School Library classroom Project, the After School Program financial arrangements that are still outstanding, and the fields.
- Mr. Sim spoke about the Personnel and Management Committee Meeting that took place on April 29th. They spoke about Summer School and several contractual matters.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of April 24, 2019.

Motion by Ms. Brown
Seconded by Ms. Doyle

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for May 2019 including relevant mileage reimbursement.
3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	April 8, 2019 Fire Drill April 26, 2019 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	April 22, 2019 Fire Drill April 29, 2019 Shelter in Place

4. That the Board of Education approve Sheli Dansky to attend the NJSBA Special Education Symposium on May 13, 2019, West Windsor, NJ.
5. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB report (1) previously reported at the April 24, 2019 Board Meeting.

Motion by Ms. Doyle
Seconded by Ms. Kang

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

6. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB report (2) previously reported at the April 24, 2019 Board Meeting.

Motion by Ms. Kang
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

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

B. **CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** – None

C. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

D. **FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS** - None

E. **PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Lily Seraydarian, to participate in a Montclair High School sponsored Career Internship Program consisting of 20 hours per week to commence on May 20, 2019 through June 20, 2019.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Kelsie Ziegler, college student, to observe a certified speech-language pathologist for a maximum of 25 hours to commence on or about May 15, 2019 through June 20, 2019.

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following River Dell High School students to participate in the School Sponsored Senior Service Program to consist of 20 to 25 hours per week of volunteer work at a non-profit organization to commence on May 20, 2019 through June 12, 2019.

Julia Cheung
Sophia Scardino
Colin Woefel

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Mr. Sim

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Kang, 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 following Quote Contract for the 2018-2019 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2734	Swift Medical Services	\$189.00

2. That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Vineland (Joiner) and Region

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Ms. Brown

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brown asked which students will attend the next round in the Science Championship Contest. Dr. Ben-Dov answered and told her they will be honored at the May 22nd board meeting.

Ms. Brown reported on the Colorado school shooting. She asked about security measures in schools.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 9:05 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Doyle to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 11:14 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator