

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 22, 2020
7:30 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 7:34 PM.

A moment of silence took place in memory of Steven Jaskot.

ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Doyle arrived at 7:37 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Mira Park and her husband, River Edge Parents, asked the board members if they would consider changing the schools' policy regarding a student's mid-year school move if the family moves to the other side of town. They explained to the board members what happened to them and asked if this policy can be changed in the future. Mr. Herbst thanked her for her comments. Dr. Ben-Dov explained our practice. When a student moves mid-year within River Edge every effort is made to keep students in the school where they started unless their grade is closed. In situations of documented hardship, which the Park family was not, students are allowed to stay in a school which is not in their neighborhood to avoid a mid-year move. When hardship isn't demonstrated the student needs to go to his or her neighborhood school. Students who were sent to a school where they do not reside due to overcrowding are given the opportunity to return to their neighborhood school when a spot becomes available. In the current situation two students left Cherry Hill School and two students who reside in the Cherry Hill School neighborhood returned to Cherry Hill School from Roosevelt School.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

- Today is a sad day for our River Edge Community. Mrs. Jaskot lost her husband last night after a short and unexpected illness. Mrs. Heitman informed the Cherry Hill School staff at a meeting early this morning and Dr. Ben-Dov went to Roosevelt School to let them know. Roosevelt School was very supportive of Cherry Hill School. They sent us comfort food this morning. Everyone is being professional and strong. We are praying for Mrs. Jaskot and her family.
- Dr. Ben-Dov attended the Mayor's Emergency Council meeting on January 8th. One goal of this meeting was to get the needs of all town agencies for emergency procedures and make sure everyone is on the same page for an emergency situation. They went over different resources that are available in town. Another goal is to let every disabled individual in town know of them. Dr. Ben-Dov asked the PTO today to let her know of any disabled person that we may not know about. She informed the Korean Parent Network and they will do the same.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave an update and the status of the social/emotional activities in the district. Youth Truth data is in. We are trying to cluster the information into different categories to report. Wingman has been going strong. Other districts have heard about it and Fort Lee and Palisades Park will come to observe certain sessions. We will train a new group of Wingmen in February and they will start in March. We started Peer Mediation with the fifth and sixth grade students in both schools. These students were trained to help the younger students in grades k-2 solve smaller problems during recess. Responsive Classroom continues to go strong in grades k-3. "What's on your mind" boxes are now available in the Pupil Assistance Counselors room. Social Media and Vaping presentations will take place in the near future.
- Ideas are floating around with our space issues at Cherry Hill School. We will be ready in a few weeks to make a decision on it. If Roosevelt School does not need to add a classroom than we are good for 2020-2021. If they do, then we are considering sectioning unused areas of the Library for smaller group instruction, this making an additional classroom available. We plan to meet with our architects to explore this option.
- The River Edge Korean Parents Network sent Dr. Ben-Dov and the Supervisors a lovely thank you note and cookies to thank them for their presentation in November.
- There was a successful Parent Academy on January 8th on multi-sensory strategies in reading for younger kids. Ms. Christine Moran tweeted about it and the Department of Education re-tweeted her tweet. They were so proud of us they want to attend our next Parent Academy on February 25th. It will be about WIN. The Assistant Commissioner would also like to attend and bring the media.
- Dr. Ben-Dov would like to set up committees meetings for next month. February 11th was chosen for the committees to meet.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Today was a hard day for our River Edge family. Everyone is working together and is there for each other. Mrs. Heitman thanked Roosevelt School for the comfort food they provided to Cherry Hill staff today.
- Fourth grade theatre started in both schools with Mayo Performing Arts. The classes are having fun and enjoying it.
- This month students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King
- The third session of PDIA started today with parent meetings at each school
- The Kindergarten Winter Show was a great success
- The winter REAL courses started and are going well
- Roosevelt School kindergarten registration was today and Cherry Hill have their registration tomorrow
- The Cultural Art Show Center Show will kick off on January 28th at 4:00 PM
- Peer Mediation began today. Fifth and sixth graders are Peer Mediators for the first and second graders.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to award the contract for nonpublic school security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to designate Mrs. Napolitano as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for this school year. This is done every year.
- Budget planning has continued with the administrators. They handed in their budgets and Mrs. Napolitano is reviewing them.
- Mrs. Napolitano distributed and reviewed the budget calendar with the board members.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst expressed his sympathy for the Jaskot family. He stated to let the Board know if there is anything they can do to help.
- There will be a Bergen County School Boards Meeting on Wednesday, January 29th in Glen Rock.

- Mr. Herbst stated January is School Board appreciation month. He complimented the Board for all of their hard work.

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of December 18, 2019.

Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of January 7, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Brown

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

3. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of January 13, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Brown Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for January 2020 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
5. That the Board of Education approve the River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. (Addendum)
6. That the Board of Education approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of Schools Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by: Ms. Doyle Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

1. That the Board of Education award the contract for nonpublic school security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc. for the District.

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

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

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated January 2020 totaling \$543,855.43 including checks #43088 through #43170. Payrolls dated December 13, 2019 and December 20, 2019, totaling \$1,316,093.48 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 2019-2020 as of November 30, 2019. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30, 2019.

Further, we certify that as of November 30, 2019 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)

4. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).

Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Kang

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education designate Louise Napolitano as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following River Dell High School students for a senior internship one day per week as part of a School Sponsored Structured Learning Experience to commence on February 4, 2020 through May 19, 2020.

Anya Halecky
Jayne Manzelli
Katrina Spelda

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Alycia Campisi, Lunch Aide, for the 2019-2020 school year.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve an extended child care leave of absence for Stacy Socha to continue from May 18, 2020 through June 30, 2020.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Kate Stehn to commence on or about June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, followed by a Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about September 1, 2020, through November 25, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Juskeliene, 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 bills & claims dated January 2020 totaling \$1,042,907.45 including checks #73064 through #73193.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Transportation	Per Diem Aide	Per Diem Total
Q196	Soliman Transportation	\$79.00	\$19.00	\$98.00
2809	Soliman Transportation	\$154.00	\$0.00	\$154.00
Q203	S&D Transportation	\$90.00	\$20.00	\$110.00
2649	Ombali	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$215.00
Q199	Horizon Transportation	\$109.00	\$0.00	\$109.00
Q194	Radiant Transportation	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$180.00

3. That the Board of Education approve the following Renewal Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Transportation	Per Diem Aide	CPI	Per Diem Total
2724	Truimph	\$240.00	\$35.00	\$3.48	\$278.48
1834	Morgan Educational Serv	\$158.45	\$30.00	\$2.73	\$191.18
2474	Morgan Educational Serv	\$268.35	\$66.00	\$4.85	\$339.20
2643	Morgan Educational Serv	\$181.00	\$65.00	\$3.57	\$249.57
2655	Morgan Educational Serv	\$355.00	\$0.00	\$5.15	\$360.15
2692	Morgan Educational Serv	\$230.00	\$69.00	\$4.34	\$303.34
2640	Morgan Educational Serv	\$161.00	\$56.00	\$3.15	\$220.15

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Original Bid Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Transportation	Per Diem Aide	Per Diem Total
798	Prime Transportation	\$182.00	\$40.00	\$222.00
2031	Prime Transportation	\$182.00	\$35.00	\$217.00
2483	Prime Transportation	\$172.00	\$30.00	\$202.00
2691	Morgan Education Serv	\$140.00	\$46.00	\$186.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the following Addendum Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Transporter	Route #	Route	Per Diem Increase/Decrease	Adjusted Per Diem Cost
Madison Coach	2648	YCS/Washington	\$374.00	\$748.00

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Brown

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

They approved a grant of \$50,000 matching the New Jersey Department of Education grant for Digital Ready.

New Jersey School Boards are updating their system so you may have issues logging in. It should be cleared up in the next few days. They are Partnering with Rutgers on-line training programs.

Ms. Doyle asked about looking at doing a new demographic study. Ms. Dansky answered that we are looking at doing one in conjunction with a possible referendum in the future.

Ms. Dansky spoke about space issues that have been looked at over the years and possible scenarios i.e. changing structure of upper and lower grades, additional space, changing demographic lines, rental space, office space being repurposed, etc.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 9:10 PM.
All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Brown, seconded by Mr. Sim to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:50 PM.
All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator