

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 7, 2020 – 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. Napolitano called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown; Ms. Dansky; Ms. Doyle; Ms. Juskeliene; Ms. Kang; Mr. Sim; Mr. Herbst; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 11 members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

REORGANIZATION

Certification of Election Results – November 5, 2019

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the official results of November 5, 2019 election.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Total Votes Cast</u>
Caleb Herbst (3 Year Term)	791
Silvija Juskeliene (3 Year Term)	550

Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

The Board Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Trustees elect Caleb Herbst and Silvija Juskeliene,

2019 Board of Education and Expiration of Terms of Offices

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Expiration of Terms</u>
Sheli Dansky	2020
Elizabeth Brown	2020
Gyuchang Sim	2021
Adrienne Doyle	2021
Eun Kang	2021
Caeb Herbst	2022
Silvija Juskeleiene	2022

Nomination and Election of President

Motion by Ms. Dansky to nominate Caleb Herbst as Board President.

Roll call was taken and Caleb Herbst was unanimously elected Board President.

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

President, Caleb Herbst assumed the Chair.

Nomination and Election of Vice-President

Motion by Ms. Brown to nominate Sheli Dansky as Vice-President.

Roll call was taken and Sheli Dansky was unanimously elected Vice-President.

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

REORGANIZATION MOTIONS

1. Meeting Time & Location

That the Board of Education continues to hold regular public meetings at 7:30 p.m. as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
January 7, 2020	Roosevelt School
January 22, 2020	Cherry Hill School
February 5, 2020	Roosevelt School
February 26, 2020	Cherry Hill School
March 4, 2020	Roosevelt School
March 18, 2020	Cherry Hill School
April 1, 2020	Roosevelt School
April 22, 2020	Cherry Hill School
May 6, 2020	Roosevelt School
May 20, 2020	Cherry Hill School

June 3, 2020	Roosevelt School
June 17, 2020	Cherry Hill School
July 29, 2020	Cherry Hill School
September 9, 2020	Roosevelt School
September 23, 2020	Cherry Hill School
October 7, 2020	Roosevelt School
October 28, 2020	Cherry Hill School
November 11, 2020	Roosevelt School
November 18, 2020	Cherry Hill School
December 2, 2020	Roosevelt School
December 16, 2020	Cherry Hill School
January 6, 2021 (Reorganization Meeting)	Roosevelt School

FURTHER, provision is also made for closed meetings immediately following each regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel matters or any other private matters if necessary.

FURTHER, the Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to give at least 48 hours advance notice of all the aforesaid meetings, and said notice shall (a) be delivered to the municipal building and the post office; (b) be delivered to the Board's officially designated newspapers; (c) circulated in the School District; and (d) filed with the clerk of the Borough of River Edge, all as provided for the pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of the State of New Jersey 1975.

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

2. School Ethics

FURTHER, that the Board of Education abide by the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:12-21 et seq.

Motion by: Ms. Doyle Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

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

3. Parliament Procedure

FURTHER, that the Board of Education meetings be governed by parliamentary procedure of Robert's Rules of Order.

4. Official Public Notice Newspapers

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the *Suburban/Town News* and *The Record* as the Official Newspapers for the Board of Education until the next organization meeting.

5. Designation Board Secretary

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Louise Napolitano as Board Secretary until June 30, 2020.

6. Rules, Regulations and Policies

FURTHER, that all rules, regulations and policies adopted in previous years, and not rescinded by the River Edge Board of Education be continued in full force and effect until altered, amended, modified or repealed by other resolutions of this Board, including board policy on student records.

7. Curricula

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve all current curricula, textbooks, and programs that have been developed in accordance with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards until the next organization meeting.

8. Mission Statement

FURTHER, that the Board of Education adopt the Mission Statement as follows:

The River Edge School District is a partnership of students, parents, staff, and community members. We are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which all students can reach their maximum academic potential, while developing as responsible citizens who respect individuality. Our goals will be achieved because:

- curriculum and instruction are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
- all decisions reflect the academic, social/emotional and physical needs of pre-K to sixth grade students
- cooperation and on-going communication exist between the school district and the community
- school administrators and the Board of Education work together to assess and adjust procedures in response to new mandates and the changing needs of the community

9. Designation of Depositories & Signature Authorizations

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the Columbia Bank as the depository for funds for the Board of Education.

FURTHER, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Treasurer of School Monies be authorized and directed to maintain accounts for and on behalf of the Board in Columbia Bank and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education official warrants be signed by three of the following five:

President, Vice President, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Treasurer of School Monies, Superintendent of Schools

10. Signature Authorization – Taxes, Payroll, Insurance

FURTHER, that the President or Vice President in his/her absence, and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator or Superintendent in his/her absence, and the Treasurer of School Monies, be authorized and directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board of the payment, when due, for salaries of all employees of the Board and for withholding taxes, pension funds, medical insurance plans, property insurance, Social Security and New Jersey Unemployment Insurance.

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

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

11. Office Account Signatures

FURTHER, that the Board of Education authorize the following individuals to approve the Petty Cash Reimbursements:

- Louise Napolitano, Custodian of Petty Cash
- Louise Napolitano, Board Secretary/Business Administrator
- Dr. Tova Ben-Dov, Superintendent of Schools

FURTHER, that the maximum allowable amount per warrant be established at \$125.00 providing all necessary claims are found to be in order according to law.

12. Designation of Board Auditor, and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Lerch Vinci & Higgins, as Board Auditor until June 30, 2020.

13. Designation Board Attorney

WHEREAS, the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the River Edge Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs, to provide professional services to the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education appoints the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., as the Board Attorney until June 30, 2020 at the following rates: \$175.00 Partner and \$155.00 Associate.

14. Designation Board Architect

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate DiCara Rubino Architects, as Architect of Record until June 30, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$175 Principal, \$165 Senior Associate Architect, and \$140 Project Architect/Engineer until June 30, 2020.

15. Designation Board Insurance Agency

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Brown and Brown Advisors of Lambertville, New Jersey as the Broker of Record for Dental Benefits.

16. Designation Bond Attorney

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Wilentz, Goldman, and Spitzer as Board Bond Attorney until June 30, 2020.

17. Designation School District Consulting Physician

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Dr. Christopher Nicpon as Board School Physician until the June 30, 2020 at a rate of \$3,500.

18. Custodian of Public Records

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Louise Napolitano as Custodian of Public Records until June 30, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

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

19. Designation 504 Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Alrick Douglas until June 30, 2020 and Tara Malkowski from September 1, 2020 until the next organization meeting as 504 Coordinators for Roosevelt School and Janel Blake for Cherry Hill School as 504 Coordinator until the next organization meeting.

20. Designation Attendance Officer

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 until the next organization meeting.

21. Designation Homeless Student Liaison

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve Eric James, Homeless Student Liaison, for the River Edge School District until the next organization meeting.

22. Designation District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Eric James, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, until the next organization meeting.

23. Designation District Pest Management Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Stan Stevens as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator until the next organization meeting.

24. AHERA Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Environmental Design, Inc. to become the designated party to ensure compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) until the next organization meeting.

25. Designation Treasurer of School Funds

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Antoinette Kelly as Treasurer of School funds until the next organization meeting.

26. Designate Purchasing Agent

WHEREAS, the recent changes to the Public School Contracts Law gave Boards of Education the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3A, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold: and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Louise Napolitano possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.: and

WHEREAS, River Edge Board of Education desires to increase the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the River Edge Board of Education in the County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey hereby increases its bid threshold to \$40,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Louise Napolitano as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Board of Education Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Louise Napolitano's certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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

27. Move to authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to seek sealed bids, Educational Data Services, county contract, and/or state contract for all goods and services until the next organizational meeting.

28. Membership in Bergen County Region V

FURTHER, that the Board of Education continue its membership in the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education, does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V by-laws; designates the District Superintendent as its representative to Region V; and empowers her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interest in Region V; until the next organization meeting and

FURTHER, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V.

29. Tax Shelter Annuity Sales Companies

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve the following to solicit sales to district employees for 403b and 457 retirement plans for the 2019-2020 school year:

Aspire Financial Services
AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company
Security Benefit
Unum Life Insurance Company of America

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

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

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

2020 - 2021 School Calendar Discussion

Dr. Ben-Dov proposed two drafts of the 2020-2021 school calendar to the Board members. The difference between the calendars is Draft A has a two day Winter Recess the week of Presidents Day with the school year ending on June 22nd and Draft B has the whole week off for Winter Recess the week of Presidents Day with the school year ending on June 25th. Dr. Ben-Dov told the board members to review the calendars and think about which one they prefer. We will vote on the calendar at the January 22nd board meeting.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- January began very productively. We began our theatre residency for the fourth grade in both schools. This will last for 12 weeks and will end with culminating performances in March and April.
- Dr. Ben-Dov read the Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying report which comes from the Student Safety Data Report. As reported to the State, our reporting period 1 (July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019) indicates no HIB investigations or reports for this period. Dr. Ben-Dov believes this is a positive result of the programs we

have been implementing. Dr. Ben-Dov discussed some of the HIB training and proactive programs being implemented by the River Edge School District.

- This is the time for budget development. We are discussing personnel, space in the district, technology, and larger items that need to be incorporated into the budget.
- In January, we will begin to have a discussion on the space issues in the district. Kindergarten registration will be on January 22nd and January 23rd. We want to see how close we are to previous years and want to see what kind of Kindergarten enrollment we are predicting. After that we will begin our space explorations. We will start our space discussions with the Finance and Facilities committee once the committees are formed.
- Dr. Ben-Dov will attend the new Mayor's Emergency Council meeting tomorrow. This is the first meeting where various town agencies and institutions will meet with Mayor Papaleo. This meeting is devoted to emergency procedures.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel stated since our last board meeting we have had two performances at Roosevelt School. The third grade had their culminating dance performances. It was a hit. We also had our winter concert before break. Ms. Cuadra and Mr. Urban did an outstanding job preparing their students for the show. Second grade had their Character Day and first grade invited parents to build gingerbread houses.
- Today was the first meeting for the fourth grade Artist in Residency. The students began a 12 session residency focusing on theatre.
- Kindergarten registration will be on January 22nd and January 23rd. All the information can be found on our district website.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Budget Planning is in the process. We already started meeting with staff and department heads regarding the budget calendar which was revised on December 24th. Mrs. Napolitano will distribute a budget calendar to the board for the January 22nd board meeting.
- The Governor's address will be at the end of February to find out what our state aide numbers are. We will have a real numbers to work with at that point.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst thanked the board members for re-electing him as the River Edge Board President.
- Mr. Herbst welcomed new board member, Silvija Juskeliene, to the River Edge Board of Education.

- Mr. Herbst spoke about new board member orientation training opportunities to Ms. Juskeliene.

COMMITTEES

- No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for January 2020 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	December 12, 2019 Lockdown Drill December 16, 2019 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	December 12, 2019 Shelter in Place December 20, 2019 Fire Drill

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

3. That the Board of Education postpone until January 22, 2020 the approval of the River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. (Addendum)

Motion by: Ms. Doyle Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

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 Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying Report and HIB Training Report for Reporting Period 1. (July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019)

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

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve a donation from Joy and Jan Holmstrup to be used towards the purchase of children books for the mobile cart in memory of Erika Steinbauer in the amount of \$100.00.
2. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
3. **WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") desires to retain the professional services of Eisner Amper, LLP to provide investigative services and forensic accounting services to the River Edge School District; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed upon the terms of the Engagement Letter and Standard Terms and Conditions of Engagement; and

WHEREAS, the parties are desirous of memorializing the Engagement Letter and Standard Terms and Conditions of Engagement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby agrees to enter an agreement between Eisner Amper, LLP and the Board, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute the Engagement Letter and Standard Terms and Conditions of Engagement and any other documents necessary to effectuate same.

Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

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, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Bella DiGennaro for a maximum of 25 Clinical Observation hours of Speech and Language Pathology to commence on or about January 8, 2020 through May 15, 2020, pending criminal history review.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Jelan Meehan, Substitute Teacher, for the 2019-2020 school year.
3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Jessica Cordero, Lunch Aide, effective December 19, 2019.

4. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for Cycle III of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2019-2020 School Year, as per contract:

Roosevelt

Abby Burns Paterson
 Alexandra McNeil
 Colleen Poole
 Christine O'Keefe
 Caroline Church

Cherry Hill

Caitlin Callahan
 Katherine O'Reilly
 Gabrielle Sagala
 Noy Sapir
 Andrea Siclari
 Maribel Torres
 Courtney Sweet

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
1563	Ace Transportation	\$177.60
2797	Ace Transportation	\$165.00
2798	Hernandez	\$180.00
QS50	Jacoup's Transportation	\$148.00
2827	John Leckie	\$252.99
Q193	Morgan Transportation	\$246.00
2842	Pro Trans School Transportation	\$175.00
2844	Pro Trans School Transportation	\$115.00
2801	Rosa Transportation	\$195.00
2830	Rosa Transportation	\$380.00

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
806	John Leckie	\$296.73
814	John Leckie	\$325.15
2048	John Leckie	\$88.94
2317	John Leckie	\$248.72
2564	John Leckie	\$197.96
2731	R&V	\$174.14
0771	John Leckie	\$179.99
2484	New Start Transportation	\$175.00
2473	Rise to Shine Transportation	\$253.55
2557	Town & Country	\$183.25

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2733	R&V	\$192.00

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Doyle was appointed on the cultural affairs advisory committee.

Mr. Herbst attended a River Dell Board of Education Meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Kang to convene into closed session at 8:32 PM.
All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:20 PM.
All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator