

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 18, 2019

7:30 PM

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Myers read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Paris Myers, Board Member Recognition

The following resolution was read and Dr. Ben-Dov and Mr. Herbst commented on Mrs. Myers hard work, loyal service, and dedication to the River Edge Board of Education. Dr. Ben-Dov presented flowers to Mrs. Myers and Mr. Herbst presented her with a framed resolution. Dr. Ben-Dov read an email from former board member, Wendy Walker, to Mrs. Myers which Ms. Walker asked her to read tonight. Mrs. Myers spoke about her experience as a Board Member and Board President to the River Edge Board of Education.

WHEREAS, Paris Myers has served as a member of the River Edge Board of Education from 2009 to 2019, and

WHEREAS, she served in the leadership role of the River Edge Board of Education President from 2014 to 2018, and

WHEREAS, in her leadership role she worked closely and continuously with all River Edge Constituencies to sustain and improve the River Edge School District, and

WHEREAS, her professional knowledge and experience helped educate the public about the needs, operations, personnel, buildings and grounds, and financial challenges of the River Edge School District, and

WHEREAS, during her tenure of office she gave generously of her time and talents in fulfilling her responsibilities in the role of Board Member, Board President, and a member of various committees, and in the continuance of the tradition of educational excellence in the River Edge School District, and

WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Board she played an important role in labor negotiations, Mayor and Council, and Recreation Department relationships, and contributed to the achievement of mutually acceptable agreements between parties, and

WHEREAS, her dedication to the improvement of the educational program, her on-going efforts and caring to provide needed services for River Edge students, staff, and families have had a tremendously positive influence on the well-being of our children and their continuing growth, and

WHEREAS, her outstanding service and her full focus were dedicated to benefit the children of River Edge are gratefully acknowledged, and

WHEREAS, she has remained dedicated to the ideals of the role of the Board in the achievement of educational excellence while being fiscally responsible;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this Eighteenth day of December, Two Thousand and Nineteen spread upon its minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for her valued service and leadership.

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

Review of Facility Needs Assessment Study

Mrs. Napolitano and Mr. Stevens reviewed the Facility Assessment Report for the River Edge Cherry Hill/New Bridge and Roosevelt Schools that was completed on November 15th. The Report was prepared by DiCara/Rubino. They performed and assessed the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing of the buildings and potential recommendations. Mr. Stevens walked through our buildings along with our Architect, DiCara/Rubino, and their Engineer. Mrs. Napolitano reviewed the recommendations they gave by priorities and Mr. Stevens gave his recommendations of his priority list. All questions were answered by Mrs. Napolitano and Mr. Stevens.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated this will be our last board meeting of the year and of the decade!
- Delightful events are happening in both of our schools. Some of the events are:
Winter Concerts are taking place this month at both schools, Cherry Hill School Kindergarten classes are making Gingerbread house with their parents, Character Day Activities for Roosevelt's second grader will take place on December 19th, and dance residency in both schools took place with culminating performances. Roosevelt third graders danced to the 50's, 60's and 70's. Cherry Hill third graders danced to the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's. Cherry Hill has five third grade classes so they danced to more decades. It was a wonderful and uplifting activity.

- Youth Truth Surveys was completed. Dr. Ben-Dov shared the statistics with the board members. The percentages of who completed the survey are as follows: 96% of Cherry Hill students and 97% of Roosevelt students, 83% of Cherry Hill staff and 92% of Roosevelt staff, 48% of Cherry Hill families and 31% of Roosevelt families. The results will be shared with us after January 7th.
- The Department of Education is formulating new curriculum standards in all subject areas except in Language Arts and Math. The new Science standards will be ready by June 30th, and need to be implemented by September 1st. We will need to assemble a team of teachers to work over the summer to write the curriculum so that teachers can begin implementing this in September of 2020.
- The new legislature that passed the assembly and is going to the senate is dealing with eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations. We do have some students that this will affect. Questions about this will be directed to the County Superintendent. The Superintendents' Association requested an amendment that once it becomes a law there will be a year grace period for implementation.
- Dr. Ben-Dov has worked on the school calendar and she has two versions for the board members to review. There will be a discussion item about the calendars at the January 7th board meeting. The difference between the two calendars is one calendar has a week off in February to align with River Dell's and Oradell's school calendar. The other calendar only has the two days for President's Day observance off in February.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated we need to have a discussion in January regarding space concerns. It is a district wide concern. However as of now, Cherry Hill School will most likely need another classroom for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Dr. Ben-Dov wished everyone Happy Holidays

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- We had our music group sing for our senior citizens on Monday, December 9th. The seniors were very happy the children came and enjoyed performing their songs.
- Conferences were well attended in both schools. Report cards were open from the portal the day prior to conferences.
- Mr. Henzel and Mrs. Heitman met with Jenny Schneider, from AmeriCorps, a Watershed Ambassador for our area. The mission is to educate residents on watershed and to let them know what they can do to help keep our water clean. She would like to have a contest with the fifth graders in both schools. The object is to have a poster contest and the winning design will be painted on storm drains at each school so they learn and recognize where our water goes.
- We have had many visits by parents for writing celebrations, making gingerbread houses, and making igloos.
- Roosevelt School had a wonderful winter concert today. Cherry Hill School will have their winter concert tomorrow.
- We had Wingman training in our third grade classrooms today. It went well.
- We are training our peer mediators in fifth and sixth grades. It is going well.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to award the quote contract to Accurate Construction Inc. for the completion of the construction of the media center.
- Mrs. Napolitano spoke with the Borough Administrator and he would like to set up a meeting with committees to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.

PRESIDENT

- Mr. Herbst reminded the board members all mandated trainings needs to be completed by December 31st.

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 4, 2019.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for December 2019 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

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

3. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

Policy #	Title
5145.7	Gender Identity and Expression

Motion by Ms. Doyle
Seconded by Mrs. Myers

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the following to attend the TECHSPO Conference from January 30 – January 31, 2020 in Atlantic City, New Jersey

Dr. Tova Ben-Dov
Denise Heitman
Christine Moran

5. That the Board of Education approve the revised following class trip:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Roosevelt	2	Liberty Science Center Jersey City, NJ	\$1,120.00

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. That the Board of Education approve to award the quote contract to Accurate Construction Inc. in the amount of \$28,000 (\$22,000 base quote and additional \$6,000 for windows to be operable) for the completion of the construction of the media center after receiving three quotes.

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

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated December 2019 totaling \$1,050,567.75 including checks #42928 through #43087. Payrolls dated November 15, 2019 and November 27, 2019, totaling \$1,225,869.52 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are 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 October 31, 2019. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending October 31, 2019.

Further, we certify that as of October 31, 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 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 Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Mr. Sim

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 authorize the payment due to Helen Popo for unused sick days.

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated December 2019 totaling \$1,148,924.34 including checks #72922 through #73063.
2. That the Board of Education approve the shared service agreement for LDTC, School Psychologist and School Social Worker between Region V Council for Special Education and Northern Valley Regional High School.
3. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q197	J & W Financial	\$49.00

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. Brown asked if the phone call for emergency days can come at different times from the elementary school and the middle school.

Mr. Sim attended the Mayor and Council Meeting on December 9th. They spoke about relocating polling places.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Jae Young (spoke before the board members voted on A3) had a statement regarding policy # 5145.7 (A3).

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mrs. Myers to convene into closed session at 9:11 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene the regular public meeting at 10:24 PM.

The board members voted to put an administrator on file in the board office on administrative leave pending further action by the Board.

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Mrs. Myers

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:25 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator