

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661**

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 4, 2019**

**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**

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 7:34PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:40 PM

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items – None**

**Summer Enrichment Program Report - Chris Armen**

Chris Armen, the Director of the Summer Enrichment program, thanked the Board of Education, the administration, the secretaries of all three schools, Mr. Stevens and the custodians, the volunteers, the students and their families, and all the teachers that contributed to the success of this program. He also wanted to thank Ms. June Karpowich, publicly, for all of her hard work and help with this program over the years. He stated she played a big part in the success of this program. This was Mr. Armen's fifteenth year of directing this program. He reviewed the enrollment, financial data and gave some recommendations for next year's success.

**Review 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)  
Eric Thomasevich, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP**

Eric Thomasevich of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the district's audit report to the Board Members. There were four recommendations. Recommendations (1) and (2) were in Financial Planning, Accounting, & Reporting. Recommendation (3) was in School Purchasing Program, and recommendation (4) was in Summer Enrichment Program. Mr. Thomasevich stated they were not repeat findings and all have been corrected from last year. He also stated the District received an unmodified opinion on the financials which represents a clean opinion. It is the highest opinion a district can receive. He thanked the board and answered questions that were asked by the board members.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- On the evening of November 14<sup>th</sup> we had the 100 year Anniversary celebration for Roosevelt School. It was a beautiful event that was well attended. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked everyone for their hard work, especially, Mr. Henzel, the Roosevelt School PTO, the Roosevelt Staff, Ms. Adimando, the chorus and the band. Dr. Ben-Dov stated it was everything we wanted it to be. She also thanked the Board Members for their support.
- The River Edge Korean Parents Network asked for someone to present to them on November 20<sup>th</sup> on various aspects of our curriculum that they wanted to better understand. Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Moran, Mrs. Spiegel, and Mr. Werner presented to them. They had great questions and it was a good evening.
- Youth Truth Surveys opened on November 18<sup>th</sup> and will close on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Most students and teachers took the survey and approximately 30% of the parents took it. We will send a reminder to the parents to take the survey.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. These days are a 12:45 PM dismissal.
- The first winter storm of the season came on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Ben-Dov believes we made the right decision with an early dismissal on Monday and a delayed opening on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also thanked the custodians for doing a terrific job with cleaning the snow by the time everyone arrived Tuesday morning.
- The Principals registered for DonorsChoose before our last board meeting and we wanted to let the staff know, but there has not been a faculty meeting where we could explain this face-to-face. Monday's faculty meeting was cancelled due to the weather and we could not re-schedule this meeting in December. The Principals sent the information out to the teachers by email and explained it to them. If they want they can apply for the month of December for a matching donation.
- The student board meeting presentation where Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Dansky, and Mr. Herbst presented in Atlantic City received some attention. Dr. Ben-Dov received a call today from the Norwood Superintendent telling Dr. Ben-Dov she is determined to do this in her school. Dr. Ben-Dov offered her assistance and said she is very happy to meet with her to walk her through it. She said it was very rewarding to hear that this program was very well received.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- After over a year and a half of planning, our Roosevelt School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration finally happened on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Henzel gave a shout out to the committee for enduring all the meetings we had. The night started out with a tour of the building with about a dozen former students with a few dating back to 1959. We then kicked off the evening with a few speeches highlighted by Mr. Vouvalides. A proclamation from the acting mayor was given to the school and the PTO presented a plaque as well. The turnout was amazing! There were many former teachers and

students along with current families and current teachers. The PTO was invaluable in their support and their efforts. The vendors also did an amazing job. They were very generous with the amount of food they donated. Mr. Henzel gave a very special thank you to Ashley Adimando for her organizing the student projects. The efforts of the staff and students under her guidance were simply outstanding. All in all, it was a memorable night!

- Tara Malkowski welcomed a baby girl named Mia.

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to accept the 2018-2019 Financial Report from the auditor that was presented at the board meeting tonight. These documents must be uploaded to the State by December 23<sup>rd</sup> along with the board resolution.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to move money from Capital Reserve to allow the window project for the Media Center Room to be funded. A separate motion will be on the December 18<sup>th</sup> agenda awarding the contract to the vendor with the lowest quote. This is being completed in June but we need to do this now so that the contractor can order the windows.
- The initial budget meeting with the Administration Team began along with a distribution of the last three years expenditures and sheet for the upcoming year.
- In submitting the Midyear budget review we were asked about our amount of Banked Cap and whether we would use Banked Cap for the next fiscal year. We have over \$700,000 in banked cap available for our use over and above the 2% tax levy. Banked Cap allows a district to set the tax levy over 2% without going to the voters for approval. It is not money that is set aside for this purpose, it is a mechanism to allow districts to raise taxes over the 2%.

## **PRESIDENT**

Mr. Herbst had no report for this meeting

## **COMMITTEES**

Ms. Brown spoke about the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting that took place on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They discussed: National Geographic Science update, health curriculum, world language curriculum, LinkIt and DIEBLES communication with parents, and a follow-up on the NJSLA 2019 results by gender.

Ms. Dansky spoke about the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting that took place on November 18<sup>th</sup>. They discussed: window quotes for the Media Center, review of building assessment, Child Study Team billing process, preliminary audit, budget discussions, and an insurance update.

Mr. Sim attended the Delegate Assembly Meeting on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mercer County Community College.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of November 13, 2019.
2. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

<b>School</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Cherry Hill School	November 15, 2019 Fire Drill November 22, 2019 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	November 15, 2019 Fire Drill November 22, 2019 Lockdown Drill

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 First Reading of the following policy:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
5145.7	Gender Identity and Expression

Motion by Ms. Doyle  
Seconded by Mr. Sim

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 class trip:

<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Cost to District</b>
Roosevelt	K	Cultural Center River Edge, NJ	\$0

5. That the Board of Education approve the following to attend the NSBA Conference on April 4, 2020 – April 6, 2020 Chicago, IL.

Sheli Dansky  
Caleb Herbst

6. That the Board of Education approve the 2020 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Edge Elementary Schools and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion by Ms. 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. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None**

**D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Enrichment Program Report for the 2019 Summer Program.
2. That the Board of Education approve the 2018-2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Corrective Action Plan.
3. That the Board of Education approve the appropriation of Capital Reserve in the amount of \$28,000 to 0-12-000-400-450-10-00 for the windows in the Media Center Renovation Project.
4. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).

Motion by Ms. Kang  
Seconded 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, appoint Julie Rabinowitz, as the District Liaison to the Board of the River Edge Public Library for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Gregorio Espinosa, ABA Aide, starting on or about December 9, 2019 through June 30, 2020.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Jaime Lazor to commence on or about April 17, 2020 through May 1, 2020, followed by a Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about May 4, 2020, through June 30, 2020.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Keri Mescall, ABA Aide, starting on or about January 2, 2020 through June 30, 2020, Step C.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Sarah Lucinese, Region V Clerical Assistant, starting on or about January 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

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 - None**

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

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

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
2828	Swift Medical	\$204.00
2845	Soliman Transportation	\$188.00
2843	Soliman Transportation	\$109.00
Q195	J&W Financial	\$159.00
2812	Eastern Star Transportation	\$200.00
2804	Eastern Star Transportation	\$248.00
0798	Eastern Star Transportation	\$278.00
2847	Cassidy Transportation	\$285.00

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

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
2714	Eastern Star Transportation	\$308.00

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

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
2731	R&V Transportation	\$212.17
2232	Alpha Care Ambulance Corp.	\$213.75

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Jointure Contract for the 2019-2020 school year:

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
2648	Stanhope	\$34.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contract for the 2018-2019 school year:

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
2080	Galaxia Express LLC	\$172.55

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

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Doyle spoke about the legal obligation to think of every student and bathroom accommodations so that students are not uncomfortable.

Ms. Brown spoke about PTO meetings, and comments regarding International Day, Wingman, and Youth Truth.

Ms. Dansky spoke about the School Board Meeting and Presentation from best practices for Social Emotional that Norwood PreK-8 presented and Leonia, Fort Lee, and Oakland. March 30<sup>th</sup> will be unsung heroes high school students to honor students that have overcome obstacles. It will be at Ridgewood High School. The next presentation will be on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Glen Rock High School with legal roundtables.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** -None

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Brown to convene into closed session at 8:58 PM.

## **RECONVENE**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:25 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator