

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

7:30 PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 26, 2020

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 7:38 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Juskeliene read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, and Mr. Herbst. Also present Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, and one member of the public.

Ms. Brown was absent

Ms. Doyle was absent

Mr. Sim was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

2020-2021 Initial Budget Presentation – Dr. Tova Ben-Dov and Louise Napolitano

Dr. Ben-Dov started the discussion with the principles for a good budget. She reviewed the way they construct a budget. They reviewed the proposed 2020-2021 budget. They presented the Revenue and Expenses and gave a review of the current year budget and proposed budget. All questions were answered that were asked by the board members. The state aid numbers will be released on Thursday, February 27th and we will have a true dollar number to finalize the budget. We have built into the budget additional staffing including increasing the daily hours of two teachers and adding three additional staff members: a classroom teacher, an Interventionist, and a Student Support Services Professional. The budget presented is currently not balanced until we get our final numbers from the State.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- There was a Cherry Hill School PTO meeting on February 11th. Dr. Ben-Dov addressed the PTO to discuss our growth, enrollment, and space issues. Dr. Ben-Dov told them about a possible new demographic study that maybe followed by a referendum. They also discussed our parking situation at Cherry Hill School.
- Dr. Ben-Dov attended her American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference from February 13th through February 15th. It was a very enlightening conference. They learned about Personalized Learning, The Importance of the Census, Linda Darling Hammad was a keynote speaker, and Waterford Foundation presented an interesting concept of outreach to families of young students for early reading intervention.
- There is a HIB Incident to report. It is our first report of this school year. It involved a Cherry Hill School male sixth grader having a verbal exchange with three female sixth graders. It was investigated and found to be HIB related. Consequences were given in accordance with the River Edge Code of Conduct and there will be a resolution on the next agenda to affirm this decision.
- There will be a meeting on Friday for Administrators, School Nurses, Technology and Building and Grounds regarding the Corona Virus
- We enrolled in the Bergen County Job Fair that will take place on Saturday, March 28th. All Administrators will take turns participating in this event. Dr. Ben-Dov will also start the Fun Run in River Edge which is the same day.
- We are starting a new cycle of Wingman training on March 9th and March 20th
- There was a very successful Parent Academy on What I Need (WIN). It was very well attended and received. Dr. Jessica Hammond, New Jersey Tiered System of Supports Coach, attended this event. Parents learned a great deal about the WIN program and differentiating instruction for all students. The materials will be available online.
- The newly created Professional Development Committee was very involved in planning the February 18th Professional Development Day. It allowed teachers to have a voice in what they needed. We received positive feedback from this day. We then met to plan the half day Professional Development Day on March 3rd. Mr. Fogarty will present at the March 3rd Professional Development Day about Gender Identity and Expression. He will Address Issues Affecting Students in the River Edge School District and will respond to teachers' questions.
- Dr. Ben-Dov would like to set up a Committee Meeting date on either March 11th or March 24th. It was discussed and March 24th will be the Committee Evening.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Anne Marie Spiegel welcomed a baby girl today
- Cherry Hill School's International Day was held on February 14th
- Handprints of acts of kindness from all children are displayed in the hall

- Read Across America is on March 2nd and March 3rd. The Bergen County Sherriff's office staff will come and read to the students.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are on Tuesday March 17th and Thursday March 19th
- Lottery and letters for PreK were sent out
- Mrs. Heitman and Ms. Moran attended the NJSLA Assessment Workshop on Technology
- Mrs. Heitman, Mr. James, and Mr. Stevens have been assessing space needs. We will need an additional classroom and are looking at repurposing a bigger space like the Muti-Purpose Room or the Project Room. We can still use the larger space if we need to, we are looking at scheduling.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- The State Aide numbers for the budget will be released tomorrow
- The Columbia Bank Grant has been submitted. Thanks to Mr. Maglio for REEF for all of the assistance in getting all the materials needed for submittal.
- Security Grant Information is coming available soon for Alyssa's Law.

PRESIDENT

- Mr. Herbst stated Committee Meetings met on February 11th. Each Committee met for one hour.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Kang spoke about the Curriculum/Instruction meeting. She stated that Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Moran and Mr. Werner were present at this meeting. They spoke about communicating to parents regarding Dibbles and Linkit and understating the data. They spoke about NJSLA data comparing girls and boys and Hispanic students subgroups. The need to look at different ways to help students was discussed. We want to reach out to more families. Oradell did their own comparison report. We did a comparison to Oradell. Ms. Kang stated she appreciated the work that was done.
- Mr. Herbst spoke about the Finance/Facilities meeting. They reviewed emergent capital projects. The committee is recommending moving forward pending final quotes. The preliminary budget presentation was reviewed.
- Mr. Herbst spoke about the Personnel and Management meeting. They reviewed the Organizational Chart for the River Edge School District. They spoke about staff and grade assignments, along with new personnel being proposed and existing positions to be increased for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 5, 2020.

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for February 2020 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

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

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Herbst

Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2020 totaling \$1,139,744.33 including checks #43171 through #43271 claims dated February 2020 totaling Payrolls dated January 15, 2020 and January 31, 2020 totaling \$1,223,644.42 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education establish May 6, 2020 as the date for the official Public Hearing of the 2020-2021 School Year Budget.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Herbst

Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Kathleen Salvatore, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about April 20, 2020 through June 30, 2020, MA+15, Step 3.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Reem Bowers to commence on or about September 1, 2020 through September 22, 2020, followed by a State/Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about September 23, 2020, through January 1, 2021.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following, Substitute Teachers, for the 2019-2020 school year.

Kerri Bartnicki
Jacqueline Reuveni

4. That the Board of Education approve Heather Rothschild, Clerical Assistant, at a stipend of \$1,250 for the Summer Enrichment 2020 Program.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Gregorio Espinosa, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about April 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020, BA, Step 1.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following Part Time 504 Aides starting February 27, 2020 for approximately four weeks:

Alycia Campisi
Ann Marie Como

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

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, 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 February 2020 totaling \$1,368,391.70 including checks #73194 through #73324.
2. WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education (the "Board") is the lead education agency ("LEA") for the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education ("Region V"); and

WHEREAS, Region V provides shared services for its member districts such as evaluations, direct services, and consultation; and

WHEREAS, as the LEA, the Board must approve the consultant agreements of the providers that Region V utilizes to deliver shared services to its member districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, re-approves the consultant agreements of the following Region V Shared Services Consultants, Psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Social Workers, Speech Language Specialists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, and Translators to provide evaluations, direct services, and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2019-2020 school year:

Cumberland Therapy Services, LLC – The Stepping Stones Group
Paraprofessional Services

Cumberland Therapy Services, LLC – The Stepping Stones Group
ABA Services

J & B Therapy - PT, OT, Speech, Evaluations, Behaviorists, Home Instruction,
Paraprofessionals

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

| Route # | Transporter | Per Diem Total |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2809 | Soliman Transportation | \$154.00 |
| Q200 | Swift Transportation | \$220.00 |
| Q201 | Swift Transportation | \$189.00 |
| Q202 | Eastern Star Transportation | \$308.00 |
| Q205 | Eastern Star Transportation | \$265.00 |
| Q207 | Horizon Transportation | \$129.00 |
| Q210 | Horizon Transportation | \$219.00 |

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Renewal Contracts for the 2018-2019 school year:

| Route # | Transporter | Per Diem Total |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1986 | D&M Transportation | \$273.83 |

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

| Route # | Transporter | Adjusted Per Diem Cost |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Q199 | Horizon | \$154.00 |
| 2648 (YCS) | Madison Coach | \$748.00 |

6. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
7. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Vineland School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)
8. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Pinelands Regional School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)
9. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Bellmawr School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)
10. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Phillipsburg School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)
11. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Point Pleasant School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)
12. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between West Orange Board of Education (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kang stated parents were thankful they learned a lot at the WIN presentation. She stated the program is for the needs of all students.

Ms. Juskeliene asked if it is common practice to support information with data at the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Ms. Kang to convene into closed session at 9:02 PM.

All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Ms. Juskeliene to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:28 PM.

All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator