

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 5, 2020

7:30 PM Public Meeting

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 7:37 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

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, Mr. Henzel and three members of the public.

Ms. Doyle was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated we've reached the second part of the school year. We are also planning our budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Planning the budget goes hand and hand with enrollment and our space issues. Dr. Ben-Dov created three charts. The first chart is key to understanding the lack of pattern with our kindergarten registration. It is the 2020-2021 kindergarten based on enrollment history. Dr. Ben-Dov projected enrollment by combining all the differences between January enrollment and actual enrollment the following year. She created an average increase for the 2020-2021 school year. She projected Roosevelt School to expect 11.6 additional students which would make four classes of 17.5. Cherry Hill School average difference is 14 which makes five classes of 21.2. If her prediction is true we will decide to close

Kindergarten classes at Cherry Hill School at 20 or 21. Any new Kindergarten students will be sent to Roosevelt School. The second chart looks at the 2016 demographic study projections and compares them to actual enrollment. We can compare what the demographer said and the number of students actually enrolled. The third chart is the comparison of Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School with actual numbers versus the projected numbers. The River Edge Board of Education will have to decide whether they wish to conduct a new Demographic Study and hope for greater accuracy.

- As of now, Cherry Hill School has 40 sections, but will need 41 in 2020-2021. Cherry Hill School is finalizing where the additional class will go. Roosevelt School will stay at 25 sections. Roosevelt School does not have any small group instructional spaces so we invited our Architect to Roosevelt School. Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel, Mr. Stevens, Mr. DiCara, and Mr. Watkins walked around the school and looked at what can be done. Mr. DiCara proposed to close off space at the front of the Roosevelt School Library to get two small group instruction spaces and an office.
- The lack of parking spaces is a big challenge at Cherry Hill School. Dr. Ben-Dov explained to the board members all the previous steps that have been taken to accommodate this challenge. Mayor Papaleo is willing to hear any suggestions and work with us on this. Dr. Ben-Dov also asked the staff for ideas and suggestions. The Board is interested in exploring various options.
- Professional Development Committee met on January 27th. This Committee has good representation of different departments among our staff. They then went back to their constituencies to find out what the teachers felt would help them most for their Professional Development. The next meeting will be on February 6th so that the Professional Development Day of February 18th can be planned with teachers' voices included.
- We had a conference call with the person in charge of the Youth Truth Survey. He helped us navigate through the system and the multitude of information that is overwhelming. He suggested taking a few strengths and a few challenges that are practical to undertake. We will have a presentation on this in the future.
- Parent Academy on WIN will be on Tuesday, February 25th at 9:00 AM. Peggy McDonald, the Assistant Commissioner will attend and she is coming with the Department of Education media. They are very pleased with how WIN is going in our district.
- The Student Board Meeting will be on April 22nd. Dr. Ben-Dov received a call from the Scotch Plains school district inquiring about this meeting. Dr. Ben-Dov invited them to come and watch.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel gave a shout out to Ms. Attardi, Ms. Del Guidice, and the students of River Edge for the outstanding art display at the River Edge Cultural Center.

- Mr. Henzel attended a Bleeding Control Workshop on January 27th. Homeland Security partnered with the Department of Education to purchase 18,250 bleeding control kits. A specific number of kits have been designated to each school district. River Edge received 50 kits. Mr. Henzel has met with the nurses at both schools to distribute the kits in the appropriate locations. The Department of Education will be providing training in the beginning of April.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano reminded the board members to complete the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms if they have not already done so. They are due to the county before April 30th.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to approve the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI). Mrs. Napolitano explained to the board what the SEMI Waiver program is.
- Mrs. Napolitano gave an informational overview of the budget to the board members. She went over the revenue side. She spoke about state aide, local tax levy, and stated there are no healthcare adjustment and no enrollment adjustment available this year. She spoke of the outside revenues: tuitions, pre-school, Region V fee, and the After School Program. She then spoke about the appropriations side of the budget: salaries, healthcare, and curriculum. She also spoke about taking money from capital reserve account and about some of the projects we would like to fund: repaving the parking lot at Cherry Hill School, putting in a new fire panel at Roosevelt School, and possible re-modeling of classrooms at both schools.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst sent a text message to the board members to pick a date in the future to work on one of their goals, training on finances. Mrs. Antoinette Kelly has offered and we will set something up after the budget is complete.

COMMITTEES

- Committee meetings will take place on February 11th. Finance and Facilities will start at 4:30PM, Curriculum and Instruction will start at 5:30PM, and Personnel and Management will start at 6:30PM.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of January 22, 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)

3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	January 15, 2020 Fire Drill January 29, 2020 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	January 13, 2020 Fire Drill January 30, 2020 Active Shooter

4. **WHEREAS**, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2020-2021, and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board Of Education hereby authorized the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Roosevelt	3	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0
Roosevelt	4	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0
Roosevelt	5	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0
Roosevelt	6	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0
Roosevelt	2	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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 establish the tuition rates per pupil for the 2020-2021 school year:
Integrated Pre-School Program 3 half days per week \$2,770
Integrated Pre-School Program 4 half days per week \$3,407
2. That the Board of Education accept the \$140.00 donation from Jennifer Wong Hernandez for general use at Roosevelt School (Addendum).
3. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2019-2020 as of December 31, 2019. (Addendum)
4. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending December 31, 2019.

Further, we certify that as of December 31, 2019 after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (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. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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 Nicole Best, Part-Time Aide and Lunch Aide, for the 2019-2020 school year. Starting on or about February 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020, pending criminal history review.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Megan Lai-Chan, 504 Aide and Lunch Aide, for the 2019-2020 school year. Starting on or about February 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020, pending criminal history review.
3. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Ozen Akdemir, Full Time ABA Aide, starting on or about February 6, 2020 through June 30, 2020, Step B.
4. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Darci Humphries, Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Carly Reitano Substitute Teacher, for the 2019-2020 school year.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Carter Silane, River Dell High School student for a senior internship one day per week as part of a School Sponsored Structured Learning Experience to commence on February 11, 2020 through May 19, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Brown Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve Westwood Ophthalmology for evaluation purposes for the 2020-2021 school year, not to exceed \$600.00.

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brown spoke about Girls Who Code. She stated Ms. Taylor-Fox and Mr. Werner trained parents regarding this site and are handling it at lunch. We will follow up with the organization regarding how other districts are utilizing this program.

Mr. Herbst attended the Bergen County School Boards Meeting. He stated many topics were covered by the attorneys present. Mr. Herbst reported on regionalization and the many steps involved in the process if implementation was considered.

Ms. Dansky spoke about the New Jersey School Board Association task force on mental health and social emotional learning. There will be a presentation of the task force study results at Oradell Public School on March 11th.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Kang to convene into closed session at 8:59 PM.
All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Kang, seconded by Ms. Brown to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:30 PM.
All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator