

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

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 18, 2020**

**6:00 PM Public Meeting**

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 and also conducted this meeting through a conference call.

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. Herbst read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mr. Herbst and Mrs. Napolitano. Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, and Mr. Sim conferenced called for this meeting.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A moment of silence took place in memory of Nicholas Myers.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

**REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- School closure and virtual learning went into effect on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and will go through Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Preparedness plan is on our website. We received a checklist from the State and we will revise and update this, as needed
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated we had a very short time to prepare for virtual learning. Chromebooks were provided to several families that said they needed them. The staff rose to the occasion and did a fantastic job. Younger students had a paper packet and digital learning. Attendance is being taken by 3:00 PM each day. Parents were full of praise, and appreciation for everyone’s efforts. On the second day of virtual learning, there was an expression of appreciation, but also challenges such as social isolation and need for students to interact with their teachers. Parents are looking for some face- to- face teaching and submitting attendance is troublesome for some of the parents. Our Attorney said to get permission from parents for Interactive learning in private homes. We had long Google

Hangout sessions with the teachers and administrators. There are various levels of comfort with this type of teaching for our staff so training is going on remotely. Teachers are concerned about their own privacy and they also have children to take care of. Secretaries are now working from home. They took their computers home. The staff that is obligated to be here is Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Technology and Custodial staff and the Administrators. The Region V building was closed so they took their computers home too.

- Dr. Ben-Dov expressed her condolences for the Myers family and she let the board know of Nicholas' funeral arrangements.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Dr. Ben-Dov read the following Principal report:

- All Principals and Supervisors have communicated with all support staff, special areas, and grade level teachers via Google Hangout
- Most feedback from parents, teachers, and students has been positive
- All Administrators are working on some individual issues with teachers and parents
- Attendance, for the most part, has been submitted. We have followed up with those students who did not submit their attendance.
- We are constantly reflecting and trying to make this online experience a positive one, as this is new to us.
- Constant cleaning is happening in each building by our custodians. The custodians are doing an awesome job!
- Mr. Tee has been solving some new tech issues and he is doing it well!

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to tentatively adopt the 2020-2021 School Year Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent.
- Mrs. Napolitano thanked the custodians for their continued efforts to clean the buildings

### **PRESIDENT**

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst wanted to publicly thank everyone for their adaptive nature and ability to acclimate to this situation on such short notice and still provide an education for all the students.
- The National Schoolboards Convention in April has been cancelled. He also stated that other various events have been either postponed or cancelled.
- Mr. Herbst stated we will not be having our committee meetings unless something arises.

### **COMMITTEES**

- Mr. Herbst spoke about the Negotiations Committee that met on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and he stated it was a productive meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education (“Board”) in response to the health emergency posed by COVID-19 (“coronavirus”) and the Governor’s order requiring that businesses must close at 8:00 p.m. and New Jersey residents should not leave their homes from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously scheduled its meeting for March 18, 2020 to begin at 7:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined to reschedule its meeting for March 18, 2020 to begin at 6:00 p.m. in order to ensure that any member of the public who attends this meeting will be able to comply with the Governor’s order; and

WHEREAS, the Board determines that an emergency exists to require the rescheduling of the March 18, 2020 to begin at 6:00 p.m. without providing adequate notice of the change in meeting time in order to address matters of such urgency and importance, that must be acted upon by the Board in order to fulfill its legal and contractual obligations; and

WHEREAS, a delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice would result in substantial harm to the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board by an affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members present that an emergency exists requiring that the meeting be convened at 6:00 p.m. to take action to fulfill the Board’s legal and contractual obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall provide notice of this meeting as soon as possible following the calling of this meeting by posting written notice of the same in the public places reserved for such or similar announcements, and also by notifying the two (2) newspapers which have been designated by the Board to receive such notices, one (1) of which shall be the official newspaper, by telephone, telegram, or by delivering a written notice of same to such newspapers and by filing with the clerks of the municipalities a written notice of same, as required by N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.

**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

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 26, 2020.
3. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of March 4, 2020.
4. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of March 11, 2020.
5. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedule for March 2020 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

**Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Doyle**

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, 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 March 2020 totaling \$870,935.76 including checks #43272 through #43341. Payrolls dated February 14, 2020 and February 28, 2020, totaling \$1,252,243.19 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be 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 January 31, 2020 and February 29, 2020. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2020 and February 29, 2020.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2020 and February 29, 2020 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: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Doyle**

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

4. That the Board of Education tentatively adopt the 2020-2021 School Year Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$19,976,779	\$16,031,391
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$1,204,342	N/A
Total Debt Service	\$1,419,425	\$1,200,325
Total	\$22,600,546	

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Board of Education requests the approval of a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$200,000. The District intends to utilize \$200,000 for paving, a new boiler, fire panel upgrade, classroom renovations, security projects, and waterproofing at Roosevelt School.

**Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Brown**

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

5. **WHEREAS**, River Edge School District Policy and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2020-2021 school year.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the River Edge Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2020-2021 school year at an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

**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

#### **E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Diane Velten, Lunch Aide, for the 2019-2020 school year. Starting on or about March 19, 2020 through June 30, 2020, pending criminal history review.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Steven Luca , Substitute Teacher, for the 2019-2020 school year.

**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

#### **F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION** - None

#### **G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2020 totaling \$1,243,792.02 including checks #73325 through #73462.

**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

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

#### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION** – None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Brown to adjourn the regular public meeting at 6:49 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator