

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 4, 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 7:33 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

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

Ms. Brown 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 gave an update on the Coronavirus. She stated a letter went out to parents regarding extra wipes for the students and extra custodial help to clean desks each evening. The administrative team was asked to prepare for prolonged period of time in case of closing the schools. We will send a survey home asking parents if they have internet and what type of devices are available in the home. She participated with the Governor, the Commissioners of Education and Health, an Epidemiologist, and other Superintendents of Schools in a phone conference. Young children are not as susceptible to the virus as are the elderly and people with weakened immune systems. Kits for testing were not available at first, but are now available locally. They are looking at developing a vaccine, but that is a year away. Someone asked about virtual learning to take place in the event of school closure and will the Department of Education consider counting that towards the mandatory 180 days of school. The answer is that it will be if mandated by the Department of Health.

- Dr. Ben-Dov held a 2nd Cup of Coffee Meeting this morning at Roosevelt School. They spoke about how the Corona Virus has become the new bullying subject. Dr. Ben-Dov will forward to the staff information about this serious topic. Students should be cautioned not to use it for making other people feel uncomfortable, or as a joke.
- Mr. Fogarty presented at our March 3rd Professional Development Day about Gender Identity and Expression. He spoke about guidelines and our policies in River Edge. He touched on diversity curriculum for grades five and six. We will have a presentation for parents. On April 1st the curriculum will be coming out from the County and we will work on it with staff over the summer to adapt it for River Edge.
- Odyssey of the Mind started three years ago and is directed by Mrs. Hafers. It is open to grades five and six. Work has been done on the weekends and after school by students, based on very strict guidelines and presented at state and local division. River Edge came in 1st in Regional and is headed to State in April!

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- The Sixth Grade Shark Tank finals were on February 11th. Dr. Ben-Dov, Mr. Henzel, Ms. Moran, Mr. Werner, and Ms. Cardia were the “sharks.” The winning team promoted a healthy dog food and treat.
- The Third Grade Biography “wax museum” was on Thursday, February 13th at Cherry Hill School. It is an example of a cohesive project adopted by both schools.
- The Kindergarten 100 day fashion show was on Friday, February 19th.
- Mr. Herbst is coming tomorrow to talk to the Sixth Graders regarding the Student Board Meeting.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano spoke about state aid and Governor’s address. There was an article in the Record regarding the wrong year tax data used. Information from the NJASBO stated that only Pemberton Township’s funding will change now that it has all been corrected.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- The Sixth Grade Board of Education Meeting will be held at the April 22 board meeting. Mr. Herbst will attend both schools to speak to the Sixth Grade students about the upcoming meeting.
- The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 24th

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

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

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	February 21, 2020 Shelter in Place February 24, 2020 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	February 19, 2020 Fire Drill February 24, 2020 Lockdown

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

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

2. That the Board of Education affirm the HIB report previously reported at the February 26, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS - None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for the Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2019-2020 School Year at the REBOE/REEA CBA hourly rate:

Cherry Hill

Deborah Auriemma
Jessica Barbo
Caitlin Callahan
Pauline Choi
Gabrielle Sagala
Noy Sapir
Andrea Siclari

Roosevelt

Ashley Denn
Sandy Gerbino
Megan Lubin
Christine O'Keefe
Colleen Poole
Lauren Proda
Alexandra McNeil

2. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Eric Bilis as student teacher, to commence on March 5, 2020 through May 1, 2020 (450 hours).
3. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Eric Bilis as a substitute teacher, to commence on March 5, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

4. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Emily Kologrivov for student field work to consist of observation for maximum of 35 hours to commence on or about March 5, 2020 through May 15, 2020 (pending criminal history review).

Motion by: Ms. Doyle Seconded by: Ms. Dansky

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve a student placement at Felician School for Exceptional Children on or about 3/16/2020. Transportation to be provided through Region V. Tuition rate to be provided upon availability.

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

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

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. 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:

Supreme Consultants, LLC

Evaluations

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Doyle asked that the Finance and Facilities Committee remember to assess all bathrooms as requested.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to convene into closed session at 8:12 PM.
All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Doyle to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:31 PM.

All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator