

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 22, 2020 – 6:00 PM

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey conducted this meeting through a Zoom Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Herbst called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown; Ms. Dansky; Ms. Doyle; Ms. Juskeliene; Ms. Kang; Mr. Herbst; Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, and approximately 17 members of the public.

Mr. Sim arrived 6:12 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

There will be a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a legal and contractual matter.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov wished everyone a Happy Earth Day. She stated it is the 50th anniversary. The district had projects posted by our students that reflected work for Earth Day.
- We are in week five of virtual learning. The virtual sessions are ongoing in so many different ways. It depends on the student's age, grade level, and teacher's preference as to what is the best way to serve the students. We have teachers posting videos, interactive lessons, and aides working independently and in small groups with students. We deal with new challenges on a daily basis. Some examples that are not regular activities of virtual learning that we have held are: two separate faculty meetings for Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Schools, we are establishing Post Dismissal Instructional Academy starting May 4th, Liberty Science sessions for 1st grade and 6th grade have been scheduled, Artist-in-Residence is being resurrected for 4th grade and the performance will be done virtually.

- Registration for Kindergarten was done in January. Registration is ongoing for Kindergarten and for new students that are entering our district. Registration will take place online pending verification of documents when they are available to be looked at.
- Monthly Advisory Meetings have been resurrected for next week and our committee meetings are coming to life. We have a Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening.
- Communication is ongoing with faculty and parents
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave an update from the Department of Education. She stated the official date of closure is through May 15th. There will be no evaluation of virtual learning. The evaluations that count towards summative assessment of teachers will be the ones done prior to March 18th. Non-tenured teachers will get their summative evaluations that need to be completed by April 30th. Notification of continued employment has to take place by May 15th. Teachers need to accept employment by June 1st. Tenured teachers will all receive a NE (not evaluated).
- Standardized Testing will not take place this school year and SGO's (Student Growth Objectives) do not need to be accomplished this school year.
- Our district donated gloves and goggles from our STEAM Lab to Valley Hospital. Dr. Ben-Dov would like to thank Mr. Werner and Ms. Hafers for setting this up.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated the Department of Education is not giving us guidelines regarding grading. We need to establish different grading systems for different grade levels. No student can be penalized for not being able to comply with the demands of academics during virtual learning.
- Dr. Ben-Dov and the Administrative Team are having discussions on the appropriate amount of screen time for a student throughout the day.
- Dr. Ben-Dov had a discussion with the board members about our current 2019-2020 school year calendar. She discussed the four unused emergency days. She stated River Dell has added those days to the Memorial Day break and Oradell is considering shortening their school year. Dr. Ben-Dov suggested shortening our school year by our four unused emergency days as well as the June 2nd Primary Day. The Board was inclined to do so but would like to wait until we have the information about continued closure from the Governor to make a final decision.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated some districts are giving several 12:45 PM days for teachers to better prepare for planning needs, scheduling, address new situations that may arise, and for students to have a little break. The board discussed and decided to give staff and students 12:45 PM days every other week.
- Dr. Ben-Dov and the board decided to hold the review of non-tenured personnel at 5:00 PM on May 6th and have the regular public board meeting start at 6:00 PM

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Virtual learning is a very new experience for all. Teachers and I are in constant contact. They are working with their teams and colleagues for planning and moving forward.
- Online learning is very constant. Some of our students are working all day long and at different times of the day. Some students are asking for help in the evening because that is when they are completing their work. This is a very different and meaningful way of working and learning.

- The Administrative Team has been on some zoom sessions with the teachers. It was great seeing the students.
- Mrs. Heitman has spoken to several parents and has received good feedback about online learning.
- Mrs. Heitman has had a Zoom meeting with the PTO executives. They have many questions and Mrs. Heitman was able to answer many of them but some of the questions we will have to wait and see before she can give them an answer.
- Mrs. Heitman spoke with the chair of 6th grade and they have many questions about 6th grade activities. Mrs. Heitman will send them a letter.
- The school did a padlet for the secretaries for Secretaries Day. Many great thoughts and wishes were sent virtually.
- Mrs. Heitman is speaking with Mr. Ron Starace who is working and trying to figure out ways to help families who may be in need in the community.
- Mr. Henzel and Mrs. Heitman have been in constant contact throughout virtual learning.
- Mrs. Heitman is very proud of the River Edge District and the technology we have and the skills acquired before this happened because it eliminated some of the challenges we may have had.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano stated we are moving forward as is with our proposed budget as per County and State guidelines. However, we are looking at prioritizing our expenditures should it be necessary at any point to look at cutting back the budget for a number of reasons.
- Our custodians are on rotating shifts and we are sanitizing the areas as they are used but the buildings have been thoroughly cleaned. We are also allowing limited service people in to take care of some of the projects that were to be done this summer, i.e. painting the gym and gym floors. We are looking to move up the installation of the window in the Media Center Room, however it has not yet been delivered. We are also looking at purchasing additional gloves, hand sanitizers, and masks. Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle and Ms. Brown also discussed additional items such as retro fitting additional sinks and hand sanitizing units.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst wanted to publicly thank our teaching staff, custodial staff, the Administrative staff, parents, and community members for the patience and dedication they have shown.
- Mr. Herbst said we are monitoring the Zoom chats for this board meeting and we will address the questions at the public discussion portion of this meeting.
- Mr. Herbst explained the walk-in resolution on tonight's agenda. It grants Dr. Ben-Dov permission to hire a Payroll Coordinator before the next board meeting as this is a time sensitive matter.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS

- Mr. Herbst stated the Curriculum and Instruction Committee will have a Zoom meeting tomorrow evening and the other committees are in discussion.
- Ms. Dansky stated the Finance and Facilities Committee did not meet but the bills were distributed to the committee member's homes and they will be picked up tomorrow.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of April 1, 2020.
2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of April 15, 2020.

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

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

3. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education is meeting in public session on April 22, 2020.

WHEREAS, certain business transactions must necessarily be addressed during the hiatus of public sessions of the Board, including but not limited to, the offering of contracts of employment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to offer contracts of employment on behalf of the Board between April 22, 2020 and May 6, 2020 subject to final approval of the Board at the next Regular Public Meeting.

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

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 April 2020 totaling \$526,409.02 including checks #43342 through #43393 (Addendum). Payrolls dated March 13, 2020 and March 31, 2020, totaling \$1,239,898.46, 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 March 31, 2020. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending March 31, 2020.

Further, we certify that as of March 31, 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: 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 accept, with regret, the resignation of Barbara O' Brien, Payroll Coordinator, effective May 15, 2020.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the extended Child Care leave of absence for Tara Malkowski for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Sara Caruolo to commence on or about, September 1, 2020 through October 9, 2020, followed by a State/Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about, October 12, 2020, through January 8, 2021.
4. That the Board of Education rescind 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, effective March 18, 2020.

Deborah Auriemma	Megan Lubin
Jessica Barbo	Alexandra McNeil
Pauline Choi	Christine O'Keefe
Noy Sapir	Colleen Poole
Ashley Denn	

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

<u>Cherry Hill</u>	<u>Roosevelt</u>
Andrea Siclari	Abby Burns-Paterson (2 sessions)
Caitlin Callahan	Nancy Hafers (1 session)
Gabrielle Sagala (2 sessions)	Sandy Gerbino
MaryAnn Crudello	Lauren Proda
Nancy Hafers (2 sessions)	

Motion by: Ms. Doyle Seconded by: Ms. Kang

Ayes: Ms. Brown, 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 Tuition Contract with the CTC Academy in Oakland, for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office. Transportation will be provided through Region V. The tuition rates are as follows:

\$92,292 2020 - 2021 School Year
\$448.02 Per Diem Rate

2. That the Board of Education approve a River Edge Preschool student be placed out of district for the 2020-2021 school year in the Bergen County Board of Special Services Hearing Impaired Program in the Godwin School in Midland Park at a tuition rate of \$69,400. Transportation will be provided through Region V.

Motion by: Ms. Kang Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2020 totaling \$1,214,956.70 including checks #73463 through # 73594.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2019-2020 school year:

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Total
Q206	Pro trans	\$210.00
Q209	Jacoup's Transportation	\$199.00
Q211	New Start Transportation	\$210.49
Q212	Swift Medical	\$179.00
Q214	J&W Financial	\$320.00
Q215	Horizon Transportation	\$199.00
Q216	NJ Transportation	\$234.00
Q218	Sun Transportation	\$204.00
Q220	Sun Transportation	\$164.00

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Total
2638	Jacoup's Transportation	\$269.00
2030	Destiny 23	\$191.20
2418	Destiny 23	\$212.00
1924	Ace Transportation	\$225.00
2746	Ace Transportation	\$169.00

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

Route #	Transporter	Adjusted Per Diem Cost
2232	Alpha Care	\$362.99
Transportation Service Agreement	Rinaldi Transportation	Continuation of Services Agreement
Transportation Service Agreement	RC Prime	Continuation of Services Agreement

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Total
Q224	Horizon	\$209.00
Q226	Cassidy	\$115.00
Q225	Eastern Star	\$195.00
2808	We Care	\$213.00

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Total
2163	Pro Trans	\$478.67
2327	Pro Trans	\$376.18

7. That the Board of Education approve the 2019-2020 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Vineland School District (Joiner) and Region V. (Host)

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Daniel Katz (276 Valley Road River Edge) asked why we aren't using the unused emergency days now and instead using them at the end of the school year. He also asked why the kindergarten assignments in google classroom are so difficult to obtain. He also commented that a lot of assignments are watching YouTube videos and interaction with teachers are only two times a week for 30 minutes. Ms. Dansky explained we have no final word on the end of the school year and as of now we are only out until May 15th. She suggested we wait for notification from the Governor before we make our final decision about the calendar. Dr. Ben-Dov stated she would take his comments under advisement. She said the Principals dealt very closely with every grade level and it is her understanding teachers who did not start interactive sessions will start them soon. She will discuss and review with the Principals to see what is happening with kindergarten curriculum. Ms. Miele, RE Technology Coach who was present at the meeting, stated that she would look into ways to make google classroom more assessable to parents.

Jim Lempenau (18 Kimberly Way River Edge) asked will there be any make-up sessions for students who are supposed to be granted special services. He also asked if the students who were identified in March would receive PDIA now. He also wanted to know if the district has any thoughts of putting up a survey every day to find out when students finished their work and how much was it. This would provide tangible feedback. Dr. Ben-Dov responded separately to these questions. She restated the question about PDIA which was whether students who were identified as needing the extra help in March were being offered the extra help for PDIA. The answer is yes. They have been identified already. All the google forms went out today. This is the make-up for those students where we couldn't start immediately when school closed. Mrs. Lempenau stated she was not notified. Dr. Ben-Dov will ask Mr. Henzel tomorrow to see why she did not get any notification. Mrs. Lempenau said they just started Zoom speech this past week and wants to know if those weeks will be made up for speech services. Dr. Ben-Dov will ask Mrs. Kuruc about this. Dr. Ben-Dov did not know if it would be practical to have a survey every day, but she will certainly consider an administration of a survey.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Doyle to convene into closed session at 7:36 PM.

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Doyle to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:05 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator