

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – October 7, 2020

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 6:05 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 34 members of the public.

Ms. Dansky arrived at 6:12 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Accept PTO Gifts for the 2019-2020 School Year:

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the wonderful gifts provided to Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School and the New Bridge Center by the PTO. She expressed her gratitude to the PTO for everything they do for our community to benefit our students and staff. Dr. Ben-Dov stated the fundraiser abilities were limited severely during the pandemic. They lost some major fundraisers and still were able to put together such an impressive list to benefits our students and school community. She highlighted some of the gifts from the 2019-2020 school year by various categories such as: gifts for students, for staff, and gifts that benefited the whole school community or the RE community.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

- Our phase-in plan will be completed this week. We will continue to work as hard as possible on the implementation. We will continue to modify and tweak as needed and as much and as necessary to benefit our students.

- Our health checks and monitoring systems are in place. A parent portal was set up in Genesis for our students. Parents are to fill out and submit a questionnaire each morning by 8:00 AM. Some of the challenges with this system are: people are experiencing difficulty with the portal, a few people are experiencing language barriers, some people forgot to complete the questionnaire, and some people were new and needed the orientation and explanation of the portal. The number of people who forgot to submit this is being reduced over time. One of the issues is that with the phase-in every new group coming in has to establish the routine and it takes time. The principals are requesting of the teachers to check their individual lists. If they find that their student did not submit a questionnaire, these children will be addressed before the teacher brings their students into the building and the families are then called by the nurse before being admitted to class. It's important to understand that this is not just about the need to take the student's temperature but also the response to the other questions about symptoms and travel. For staff, we contracted with Frontline and should be up and running on October 12th. As of now, we have google form or paper forms for staff to fill out each morning. The Principals remind all staff by email each morning using a "Boomerang" feature of google to fill this out before entering the building.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave an update on Hybrid vs virtual learning statistics. The statistics in general are not very different from the end of August. They are very different however for the schools so instead of giving a district statistics she offered them by school: Roosevelt School has 382 students or 76.55% in the hybrid model and 117 students or 23.45% that are virtual. Cherry Hill School and New Bridge Center has 431 students or 60.03% in the hybrid model and 287 students or 39.97% that are virtual. There is some movement towards increasing in-person attendance by families and she'll share new statistics next time. The management of the hybrid model is not easy. We have tried to offer as much professional development and support as possible to our teachers and we will continue to do so.
- Our security drills will continue to be held and will need to be increased. We will need to repeat them for the in-person cohorts. We will now have four drills a month for the AM/PM cohorts and the days of the week cohorts. We also are mandated to hold different drills for different months, as directed by the DOE. The virtual students are not to participate in these drills.
- There will be no Halloween parade this school year. We are thinking of some creative ways to allow the children to express themselves. We are considering using a virtual Wednesday for the students to do something from home. We are considering other options as well. We haven't determined what the plan will be for Halloween, but are in the process of discussing it.
- The Stronge Evaluation Observation System is what we have implemented for many years in River Edge based on the directives from the Department of Education for tenured and non-tenured teachers. Last year during the pandemic, the Department of Education's decision was no observations. We were requested to give Tenured teachers their evaluation ratings from the previous year and to use for non-tenured teachers observations we already had on them and give them a summative on that basis. The same was true of administrators. This year they wanted us to convene the DEAC (District Evaluation Advisory Committee) and the SCIP (School Improvement Panel) Committees and to get their opinions and address the faculty and explain what we are doing. We held our meetings and explained our evaluation system to the committees. We explained that the Department of Education is urging us to do in person evaluations. The other piece of the directive is the possibility of a portfolio evaluation that is meant for virtual instruction. We are beginning our

evaluations and walk throughs. We will maintain all of our deadlines and timelines. The Department of Education is directing that every teacher develop two student growth objectives. We are not sure if we will have standardized testing this year as we received no information on this topic. Every teacher needs to develop these objectives that will then filter into school goals and will become district academic goals. The teachers have been assessing a lot, some in person and some virtual assessment to determine the needs of their students. Once they have the data completed from the assessments they will meet with the curriculum team to see where the deficits are, where they want to see their students grow most, what is reasonable to expect, and how do we accomplish it. The assessments inform us where each student is academically, who will need enrichment, and who will need support. Our PDIA (Post-dismissal Instructional Academy) is already planned for students who need support. It will start with a six week long Math cycle for grades 2-6, on October 28th.

- This week is the Week of Respect and we have a lot of activities planned. We have connected with the River Edge Public Library and they have a flyer with the River Edge logo on it and have given us a lot of resources to with go with our themes for the Week of Respect. The principal will share more specific information about the activities.
- The elections are coming up and our students need to be involved in the process of understanding democracy and understanding the election process. They will be involved in mock elections. We have received some guidance from the State on how to engage our students in this.
- Dr. Ben-Dov will hold a virtual Second Cup of Coffee meeting on Tuesday, October 13th at 8:45 AM

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel said we are on the eve of bringing back our cohort B students and he is excited to have the students back in the building again.
- Mr. Henzel thanked all of the parents who fill out the daily COVID forms. Parents are doing a great job with this.
- This is Week of Respect and we have a theme for each day of the week. Mr. Henzel reviewed the themes with everyone.
- Picture day will be on October 26th and October 29th. This will enable us to photograph both cohorts.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- It's so nice to have the children back in the building. It makes it feel like a special place again.
- The Business Office has been working very hard. We find ourselves with all of our regular work along with a lot of other work with funding Non-Public schools, Cares Act, and FEMA reimbursement.

- All of our custodians are working very hard. They are making sure the buildings are clean and safe for students and staff. They have worked tirelessly without a break and Mrs. Napolitano wanted to publicly thank them for all of their hard work.

PRESIDENT

- Mr. Herbst reminded the board members to complete the self-evaluations.
- Mr. Herbst attended the Bergen County School Board Association Meeting on Tuesday, September 29th. The biggest take away from the meeting was the NJSBA workshop. He stated 25 people can attend this workshop virtually for one price and all of the sessions will be recorded and stored for a year. Mr. Herbst also inquired about resuming in-person board meetings again and asked what other districts are doing. Many are doing in-person with the board and zoom for the public. He stated it depends on your community, board, Superintendent, and Business Administrator. Mr. Herbst held a discussion on what the board members want to do and it was decided to have virtual meetings continue and to keep re-assessing the situation.

COMMITTEES

Ms. Dansky attended the Governor's Town Hall meeting. He spoke about the budget and mentioned they are not anticipating any additional cuts in the budget.

Ms. Dansky attended a CAL (Community Association Leadership) meeting on Monday, October 5 and two teachers were the presenters of this meeting. They spoke about the challenges the teachers are facing with the current learning situations. Ms. Dansky mentioned that New Jersey School Board Association is looking for State Officers.

Ms. Dansky stated the Facilities and Finance Committee met on September 30th. They spoke about state aid funding loss, facilities update, Shared Services Agreements, a Region V update, and future topics.

Mr. Sim stated the Personnel and Management Committee met on September 30th. They spoke about current staffing issues, health and safety issues with staff, substitutes, child care issues, anticipated leave of staff members, change in health insurance, and possible implications, and discussion of the evaluation and observation guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Brown stated the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on September 30th. They spoke about the reopening highlights and challenges, Grades K-2: Engagement on Zoom, update on professional development for staff. Diversity professional development for staff were touched upon but will be discussed at the next meeting.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

- 1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of September 23, 2020.

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

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

- 2. That the Board of Education establish the week of October 5 - October 9, 2020 as a “Week of Respect.”
- 3. That the Board of Education establish the week of October 12 - October 16, 2020 as a “School Violence Awareness Week.”
- 4. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	September 1, 2020 Evacuation September 17, 2020 Security Communications Drill September 25, 2020 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	September 17, 2020 Security Communications Drill September 21, 2020 Fire Drill

- 5. That the Board of Education accept the District Nursing Services Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.
- 6. That the Board of Education approve the annual subscription renewal with the Schoolboardnet service for the 2020-2021 School Year in the amount of \$1,888.00.
- 7. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
6114	Pandemic Response Team
5141	Health

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the Non-public Schools Digital Divide allocations in the following amount for the 2020-2021 school year:

St. Peter's Academy-\$4,046
Yeshiva of North Jersey-\$27,840
Stepping Stone Learning Center-\$305
New Beginnings at Grace Lutheran-\$44

2. That the Board of Education accept the Corona Relief Fund Grant in the amount of \$31,733.
3. That the Board of Education accept the Roosevelt, New Bridge Center, and Cherry Hill Schools PTO Gifts for the school year 2019-2020. (Addendum)

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Aleida Drill, ABA Aide, effective November 13, 2020.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Gabrielle Sagala to commence on or about February 1, 2021 through March 11, 2021, followed by a State/Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about March 12, 2021, through April 9, 2021.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Shauntea Weaver, School Nurse, starting on November 2, 2020 through June 30, 2021, BA, Step 6.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a leave of absence in accordance with the provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), by an employee whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, to commence on October 12, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Gina Duprey, Assistant Editor of the River Edge Web-based Publication, as per contractual stipend, for the 2020-2021 school year.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Mary Ann Picardi, lunch aide for Cherry Hill School for the 2020-2021 school year.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Beth Schoen, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about November 2, 2020 through April 1, 2021, MA, Step 8.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Rozanna Shindelman, Leave Replacement Psychologist, effective on or about October 12, 2020 through March 11 2021, MA + 15, Step 5.
9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Pritchard Industries for supplemental staffing as needed for the 2020-2021 school year.

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contracts for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide	Increase/Decrease adjustment cost per vehicle	Increase/Decrease adjustment cost per mile
2900	Town & Country Transportation	\$250.00	\$42.00	\$250.00	\$2.00
2901	All Points Transportation	\$189.00	\$29.00	\$189.00	\$2.99
2902	We Care Transportation	\$278.00	\$59.00	\$277.00	\$2.99
2904	All Points Transportation	\$142.00	\$25.00	\$142.00	\$2.99
2906	First Student Transportation	\$259.00	\$80.00	\$259.00	\$1.00
2907	First Student Transportation	\$329.00	\$80.00	\$329.00	\$1.00
2908	First Student Transportation	\$349.00	\$80.00	\$349.00	\$1.00
2909	First Student Transportation	\$349.00	\$80.00	\$349.00	\$1.00
2911	Pro Trans Transportation	\$299.00	\$35.00	\$254.99	\$4.99
2913	We Care Transportation	\$289.00	\$69.00	\$288.00	\$2.99
2915	RC Prime Transportation	\$165.00	\$45.00	\$169.99	\$2.99
2916	RC Prime Transportation	\$175.30	\$30.00	\$179.99	\$2.99
2918	Sun Transportation	\$225.00	\$25.00	\$225.00	\$2.99
2921	John Leckie, Inc.	\$274.99	\$45.00	\$274.99	\$1.99
2922	RC Prime Transportation	\$145.00	\$50.00	\$149.99	\$2.99
2923	John Leckie, Inc.	\$244.99	\$45.00	\$244.99	\$1.98
2924	RC Prime Transportation	\$179.00	\$25.00	\$183.99	\$2.99
2926	First Student Transportation	\$245.00	\$80.00	\$245.00	\$1.00

2927	Pro Trans Transportation	\$320.00	\$50.00	\$254.99	\$4.99
2928	N&Y Transportation	\$249.00	\$45.00	\$249.00	\$1.97
2929	Kids Choice Transportation	\$249.00	\$55.00	\$229.00	\$2.50
2931	First Student Transportation	\$325.00	\$80.00	\$325.00	\$1.00
2935	First Student Transportation	\$285.00	\$80.00	\$285.00	\$1.00
2936	RC Prime Transportation	\$169.00	\$30.00	\$173.99	\$2.99
2937	John Leckie, Inc.	\$233.99	\$45.00	\$233.99	\$1.93
2938	Town & Country Transportation	\$139.00	\$85.00	\$139.00	\$2.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each award is expressly conditioned upon the successful vendor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and performance bond as required in the specifications and executing a contract in accordance with the terms of the specifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute any and all document necessary to effectuate this Resolution, and to submit all required documents to the Executive County Superintendent for approval.

2. That the Board of Education post approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide	Increase/Decrease adjustment cost per vehicle
Q900	We Care Transportation	\$259.00	\$ 59.00	\$259.00
Q902	We Care Transportation	\$261.00	\$ 59.00	\$261.00
Q903	American Star Transportation	\$255.00	\$ 58.00	\$255.00
Q904	American Star Transportation	\$234.00	\$ 48.00	\$234.00
Q905	D&M Transportation	\$94.00	\$ 60.00	\$94.00
Q906	We Care Transportation	\$279.00	\$ 61.00	\$279.00
Q907	D&M Transportation	\$323.00	\$ 60.00	\$323.00
Q908	D&M Transportation	\$341.00	\$ 60.00	\$341.00

Q909	American Star Transportation	\$265.00	\$ 48.00	\$265.00
Q910	Cassidy Transportation	\$314.00	N/A	\$314.00
Q911	Sun Transportation	\$209.00	\$ 40.00	\$209.00
Q912	Pro Trans Transportation	\$199.00	n/a	\$199.00
Q913	Morgan Educational Services	\$257.00	\$ 69.00	\$257.00
Q915	We Care Transportation	\$269.00	\$ 59.00	\$269.00
Q918	Swift Medical Services	\$209.00	\$ 35.00	\$209.00
Q920	We Care Transportation	\$279.00	\$ 59.00	\$279.00
Q921	John Leckie, Inc.	\$282.99	\$ 45.00	\$282.99
Q922	Town & Country Transportation	\$250.00	\$ 40.00	\$250.00
Q923	John Leckie, Inc.	\$248.99	\$ 45.00	\$248.99
Q924	Pro Trans Transportation	\$265.00	\$ 50.00	\$265.00
Q926	John Leckie, Inc.	\$248.99	\$ 45.00	\$248.99
Q927	Cassidy Transportation	\$314.00	N/A	\$314.00
Q928	Destiny 23 Transportation	\$219.00	\$ 40.00	\$219.00
Q929	Sun Transportation	\$225.00	\$ 40.00	\$225.00
Q931	American Star Transportation	\$260.00	\$ 96.00	\$260.00
Q932	American Star Transportation	\$265.00	\$ 48.00	\$265.00
Q935	We Care Transportation	\$301.00	\$ 69.00	\$301.00
Q936	We Care Transportation	\$285.00	\$ 69.00	\$285.00
Q937	Morgan Educational Services	\$246.00	\$ 66.00	\$246.00
Q939	All Points Transportation	\$148.25	N/A	\$148.25
Q940	Morgan Educational Services	\$199.00	N/A	\$199.00
Q941	American Star Transportation	\$250.00	\$ 48.00	\$250.00

Q943	All Points Transportation	\$197.00	N/A	\$197.00
Q944	Town & Country Transportation	\$240.00	\$ 20.00	\$240.00
Q945	All Points Transportation	\$167.00	N/A	\$167.00
Q946	All Points Transportation	\$183.50	N/A	\$183.50

3. That the Board of Education post approve the following Renewal Contracts for the 2020-2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem Total
1120	Valley Transportation	\$202.62
1132	We Care Transportation	\$223.99
1133	We Care Transportation	\$254.50
1277	Valley Transportation	\$200.10
1524	Valley Transportation	\$270.11
1529	Rinaldi Transportation	\$245.72
1544	Valley Transportation	\$224.62
1616	Valley Transportation	\$167.28
1742	Valley Transportation	\$157.77
1819	Valley Transportation	\$250.49
1834	Morgan Educational Services	\$193.92
1899	Valley Transportation	\$189.29
1900	Valley Transportation	\$319.44
1963	Valley Transportation	\$274.64
1989	Valley Transportation	\$196.54
2028	Valley Transportation	\$224.54
2035	Valley Transportation	\$254.25
2163	Pro Trans Transportation	\$245.99
2228	We Care Transportation	\$262.38

2235	We Care Transportation	\$283.93
2310	Valley Transportation	\$178.56
2318	We Care Transportation	\$268.03
2368	RC Prime Transportation	\$224.81
2402	Valley Transportation	\$188.56
2403	RC Prime Transportation	\$431.12
2414	Valley Transportation	\$210.45
2493	Valley Transportation	\$415.79
2548	RC Prime Transportation	\$227.76
2711	RC Prime Transportation	\$253.15
2723	We Care Transportation	\$259.88
2736	Pro Trans Transportation	\$279.68
2739	Triumph Coach	\$253.74

4. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Educational Service Commission of Morris County (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
5. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Region II (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
6. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Region V (Host) and Region II (Joiner).
7. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Region V (Host) and Region III (Joiner).
8. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region III (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
9. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The SBJC (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
10. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Region V (Host) and SBJC (Joiner).

11. 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, award the following contract to provide Interpreter services to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2020-2021 school year:

Supreme Consultants	Interpreter Services
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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

Ms. Dansky commented that she likes the revisions highlighted on the revised agendas. She finds this extremely helpful. She asks that we continue this practice.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Jess Doo (River Edge Resident): was there an issue with Region V funds? Anything that could impact our kids receiving services? Ms. Dansky responded it's not an issue with the funds it's a procedural issue.

Dana Andriano (River Edge Resident): what is phase two going to be for the student's? When will there in-person days for grades 2-6 increase being that they are more virtual than in person? When will grades k-1 school in-person hours increase, as well? Dr. Ben-Dov responded that will depend on where the pandemic takes us and what the data and the guidelines are that we receive.

Heather Szostak (197 Wayne Avenue): when will River Edge reassess k/1 grade being able to attend in-person instruction for more than 2 hours a day? In other words, can another survey be administered to families to see if more families are opting to go virtual? If this occurs, this would allow the teachers to have BOTH cohorts at the same time for a longer duration. Currently, my child's teacher has a total of 11 students opting for hybrid (AM & PM) and the classroom can hold 12 students. 2.5 hours a day is not sustainable for many families for numerous reasons. Dr. Ben-Dov responded she is seeing more families wanting more in person and not so many families wanting more virtual. We do not have such plans at this time. We will have to take our guidance from the data that we receive about the situation. If everything is safe, we will move to more in person instruction.

Dana Andriano (River Edge Resident): I teach in Glen Rock and our elementary school students are in 5 days a week, it's really unfortunate that our students in River Edge can't be the same. Mr. Herbst thanked her for her comments and said they were noted.

Heather Szostak (197 Wayne Avenue): other surrounding towns have sent recent surveys and larger towns are having students attend in person for much longer. Dr. Ben-Dov responded that we will definitely have surveys once we have been longer in school and there is a reason to have one. Once all of the students are in, adjusted, and the plan is implemented to the best of our ability. The decision will be based on data. It cannot be a decision made by parents or by Dr. Ben-Dov.

Brianne Etter (River Edge Resident): I know schedule changes have to occur, but can there be a time period for the change given? K/1 changed from only Wednesday mornings to now a whole day on Wednesday with only a 4 day notice. This is extremely difficult on working parents (especially parents working OUTSIDE of their home and dealing with childcare issues). Dr. Ben-Dov responded it was something the principals wrote to the parents about. Parents felt it was a good solution. Dr. Ben-Dov stated that a request for more notice is a fair request.

Colleen Poole (River Edge Teacher): do Pritchard Industries employees have background checks? Mrs. Napolitano responded yes.

Michelle Como (River Edge Resident): when will you be looking at the data? What is your timeline? Dr. Ben-Dov responded we look at it all the time. As long as there is no data of significant improvement and new guidelines there is nothing we can do. It's data specific to Bergen County, to the State, and to the directives we receive. We will still need to adhere to the guidelines that we have been adhering to.

Dana Andriano (River Edge Resident): why is Glen Rock able to have students in and River Edge can't? I am confused as to why you are saying it has to be approved by the Department of Education when it is being done in Glen Rock? Mr. Herbst responded each district has created a plan for themselves and what they are going to do. Moving into new phases is at the discretion of the district and further guidance we receive from the State.

Michelle Como (River Edge Resident): are we using the gym? Dr. Ben-Dov stated absolutely by our PE teachers.

Heather Szostak (197 Wayne Avenue): Maywood is 5 days a week. Mr. Herbst responded various districts throughout the State have made their own plans and have done what they thought was best for their community.

Brianne Etter (River Edge Resident): all the kids were together and then the specials were moved to the afternoon. Mr. Herbst stated that Ms. Etter clarified a previous question.

Dana Andriano (River Edge Resident): Yes, we have AM and PM sessions which is what River Edge should be doing so that students can attend school five days a week or at the least four days a week with one day being a deep cleaning day. On a side note, we do not have a deep cleaning day in Glen Rock. Mr. Herbst responded this was a district decision and discussion over the summer. Our goal was to have a day of deep cleaning and keep cohorts of students the same.

Chris Sullivan (River Edge Resident): why are we only waiting on guidance from the State for various reopening contingencies? Is it prudent to plan for how we can get more students back in for close to a full day and equally how we can pivot to a full virtual day? By full virtual day I mean 8:25 AM -3:00 PM following a normal schedule. Dr. Ben-Dov responded we do need to look for guidance. These are the best contingencies that we came up with. We are planning for a full day of virtual learning if needed. A day of 8:25-3:00 is an extremely difficult day in terms of what the teachers have to do and how much preparation is involved for virtual instruction that is completely different from in person instruction. We do not have enough time for teachers to individualize so we have office hours in the afternoon. We don't have enough time for professional development that they require to get strategies for this type of teaching and learning. It requires so much. We are going to go along with it until we see a good reason to change it.

Dimitrios Papiris (River Edge Resident): we don't even have all the kids back in school yet. 4,5,and 6 cohort B go back tomorrow. Transmission rate and positivity rate are actually higher now than they were in August and September when this schedule was decided. The data actually says we should keep doing what we're doing for now. Mr. Herbst thanked him for his comments.

Michelle Como (River Edge Resident): so just to clarify, an entire gymnasium is being used for 2 PE teachers to teach virtually at Roosevelt. Is this correct? Do you feel this is adequate use of the open space? Dr. Ben-Dov responded that is correct. There may be uses at other times. It is the best use for it.

Ariana Hastings (River Edge Resident): so why wasn't a virtual teacher hired so that these teachers aren't maxed out? Dr. Ben-Dov responded we didn't hire a virtual teacher because we looked at the numbers. We tried for the best equity that we can do between the schools. The schools aren't equal. It may work for some grade levels and not for

others. We are not in a position to add teachers. Options to make some of our teachers virtual were reviewed and dismissed at this time because it didn't work for us numerically.

Jess Doo (210 Webb Avenue, River Edge): there have been recent closings in Tenafly, Demarest, and other towns due to cases in the schools. River Edge has a handful of new reported cases and a member of our community member who has passed. Does the public health dept/town nurse inform the school with details on these cases (not sure if they do contact tracing)? Wondering if they have shared any information on if any cases are in families with children? Dr. Ben-Dov responded they would not share any information with us that isn't specific to us. We are in constant contact with Ms. Faustini, our Public Health Nurse in River Edge and if there is any reason to notify us she would. We have a very strong contact with her that is ongoing, but there was no need for her to notify us of anything recently.

Lauren Carrabs (River Edge Resident): why wasn't there better planning to create an equal learning experience for am and pm cohorts? There is a small number of students plus live streaming in the pm cohort vs full attention of the teacher directed at in person students for the am cohort with no live streaming. Most educators we've communicated with say the pm cohort is not as desirable as the am. How can this be fixed now or moving forward? Dr. Ben-Dov responded that was a situation in one grade level in one school and the reason for that was that parents changed their options and that in some classes they had three students who were virtual. They thought it wasn't a good idea to separate them and have only one student in a virtual setting. An effort was made to make the children not feel like they were all alone. Since then, attempts were made by the principal of that school to equalize things and through some movement both AM and PM have some element of virtual students. In the same way, during normal times class size is often unequal between schools and one can always say that the education isn't equal in a class with more or less students. We are making every effort to equalize students' educational experiences as best as we can.

Chris Sullivan (River Edge Resident): positivity rates are going up, but deaths have remained low (single digits on average this month) according to John Hopkins data in New Jersey. Is this being considered regarding whether we will fully shut down? Mr. Herbst responded we will most likely not be fully shut down unless the Governor makes an executive order or if we are to receive a significant number of positive cases in our district.

Michelle Como (River Edge Resident): what is different about the cleaning on Wednesdays from the other days that k and 1 cannot go in? If cleaning on Wednesdays is so important why is it not done every day? Mrs. Napolitano responded cleaning is done every day. Wednesday is a dedicated day with the fogging machines and a much more extensive cleaning day in all of the rooms. They have full access to the building with limited people there.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Doyle to convene into closed session at 8:00 PM.

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

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:40 PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator