

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 11, 2020

6:00 PM Public Meeting

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Gymnasium, Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661 and 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. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 36 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:

- This year’s Veteran’s Day celebration was addressed differently. The town created a video with our Commanders, the Mayor, Dr. Ben-Dov and our students who expressed their gratitude to our Veterans. It was a wonderful video. Dr. Ben-Dov expressed her gratitude to all of our Veterans.
- Roosevelt School is closed and will re-open on Monday, November 16th because of two positive covid cases within 14 days that affected unrelated populations of students and staff. Cherry Hill School turned to virtual learning for the sixth graders only because an adult tested positive who sees all those students. The sixth graders can return back to school on Tuesday, November 17th. This decision was made with abundance of caution

and with coordination and collaboration with our town public health official, Ms. Faustini. We made these decisions after consultations with her and her approval. She is also in charge of contact tracing.

- Our Pandemic Response Teams met this week. Cherry Hill met on November 9th and Roosevelt met on November 10th. We will have a joint meeting on November 16th. The topics discussed were the school closures, process of contact tracing, the balance of virtual to hybrid students, letters that were sent to staff and the parents encouraging them not to travel to states and countries that are deemed to have the virus and the requirement of 14 days of quarantine upon arriving home. A question came up about preemptive closure for the holidays. Dr. Ben-Dov explained we do not have that right or permission for preemptive closure unless advised to do so by health department officials. We can only decide about a reactive closure. We also discussed the continued cleaning of our buildings and the next phase. We are always planning and we are planning to go to the next step health conditions permitting. This means exploring what we can do differently to increase our student contact and to increase their in person learning opportunities without any of the guidelines changing around us. We do have an update on the level of severity in River Edge, in Bergen County, in New Jersey and across the country. We also have to plan for the possibility of a prolonged closure and virtual learning.
- There were two options that came up for our next phase: (1) make grades K and 1 into virtual only classes and in person only classes. This means that if we create a virtual class, students will need to be redistributed from other classes and teachers will have to change the current class composition. If we establish this kind of a model there will be very little opportunity for movement for change. (2) Change the current virtual Wednesday into in-person learning day. The Wednesday would alternate between students from cohort A and cohort B. One challenge is Mr. Stevens will need additional personnel to accommodate this. There will have to be a very different way of scheduling and having the work done. These suggestions will be addressed through a survey for staff and parents. Dr. Ben-Dov stated the district came up with two comprehensive surveys and will present them to a joint meeting of the Pandemic Response Team on Monday before sending to staff and parents.
- There was an Executive Order from the Governor two weeks ago which pertains to all employees and the various regulations concerning places of employment. We reviewed them and we are on target for all of these regulations. We already had established them at the beginning of the school year with our reopening plan and are tweaking things, as needed.
- Report cards and virtual conferences are coming up. Parents will begin to receive their information about virtual conferences soon. These will take place on Tuesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 10th. The report card portal will open on Monday, December 7th.
- We will have a Parent Academy on November 23rd and it will be about Assessments and Report Cards.
- There will be a virtual 2nd Cup of Coffee on the evening of Monday, November 16th. People can start sending questions tomorrow so Dr. Ben-Dov can prepare to respond to them.

- The teachers have been working extremely hard on their The Student Growth Objectives (SGO's). From these SGO's we create academic school goals, one for Language Arts and one for Math. From the school goals we create the district goals for these topics. We are also looking at two non-academic goals that we feel include important concepts and activities that we are working on implementing. Dr. Ben-Dov will send the board the goals on Friday for the November 18th board meeting. At that meeting we will have members of the Curriculum Team present the academic goals and Dr. Ben-Dov will present the non-academic goals.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Today is Veterans' Day and typically we would have gone to Memorial Park with the Cherry Hill students to celebrate the important day. Instead, our teachers honored our Veterans in various ways during Community Time. Students watched videos, had discussions about family members who are Veterans, and one class created videos of thanks and sent them to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
- Roosevelt School had their two picture days at the end of October. Mr. Henzel thanked all the parent volunteers that he had. They were instrumental in helping make both picture days run smoothly.
- We celebrated Halloween two weeks ago with a weeklong celebration and it was very successful. Sadly, we did not hold a parade.
- Roosevelt School continues with remote learning. We are looking forward to getting back to school on Monday, November 16th.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano thanked Mrs. Johnston for attending the board meeting tonight. She stated Mrs. Johnston is standing in the lobby taking temperatures and giving out masks and hand sanitizers. She thanked all of the River Edge School nurses for keeping us safe.
- Mrs. Napolitano thanked the Technology Team for setting up for in-person and virtual board meetings. She said they are behind the scenes in a lot of what they do and she wanted to recognize them and thank them publicly.
- Mrs. Napolitano thanked the Custodial Team who set up the Gymnasium and made sure we are all safe for this meeting.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to approve the 2020-2021 River Edge Purchasing Manual. She stated we approve this every year.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda to amend the Title Grants and IDEA for this year in order to apply carryover funds to the prior year that were not expanded.

- We uploaded numerous items for the Cares Act funds for possible reimbursement for items that deal with Covid. After we uploaded it, we found out it all changed. It's a specific amount of money received based on your ESEA funds. We received \$25,000 and we are very grateful for that money.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst sent an email to Matt Lee, from NJSBA, to see if he can attend our November 18th board meeting.
- There will be a virtual Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 21st
- Mr. Herbst thanked Mrs. Johnston, our Custodial staff, and our Technology Team to make our in-person board meetings possible.
- Mr. Herbst stated our future in-person board meetings will now be held in the Cherry Hill School Gymnasium.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky attended a CAL (County Association Leadership) Meeting where there was lots of discussions on QSAC. Districts that are experiencing QSAC assessments are asking to postpone them due to covid.
- Ms. Dansky attended a state wide Special Education Committee Meeting where they spoke about use of advocates for families in special education litigation and mediation. We are working on developing a request of the state from the committee to create training and certification regarding advocates.
- Ms. Dansky will attend the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Board Association Meeting tomorrow night.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of October 28, 2020.

Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Ms. Kang

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeleiene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst

Nays: None, Abstained: Ms. Brown

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for November 2020 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act completed by each school's safety team.

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

| School | Dates |
|--------------------|--|
| Cherry Hill School | October 15, 2020 Evacuation Drill October 20, 2020 Evacuation Drill October 27, 2020 Fire Drill October 30, 2020 Fire Drill |
| Roosevelt School | October 9, 2020 Evacuation Drill October 15, 2020 Evacuation Drill October 20, 2020 Fire Drill October 23, 2020 Fire Drill |

5. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policy:

| Policy # | Title |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 4111.2/4211.2 | Domestic Violence |

6. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 River Edge Purchasing Manual.

7. That the Board of Education approve the 2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>School</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| January 6, 2021 | Cherry Hill School (Re-Organization Meeting) |
| January 20, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| February 3, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| February 24, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| March 3, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| March 24, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| April 14, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| April 28, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| May 5, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| May 19, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| June 2, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |
| June 16, 2021 | Cherry Hill School |

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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 an amendment to the FY 21 IDEA Grant for carryover funds as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Basic IDEA - Public | \$2.00 |
| Basic IDEA - Non-public | \$37,827 |
| Preschool IDEA-Public | \$5,392 |

2. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 21 Title Grant for carryover funds as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Title I | \$10,158 |
| Title II-Public | \$1,329 |
| Title II-Non-Public | \$1,370 |
| Title III-Public | \$16,012 |
| Title III -Non-Public | \$2,668 |
| Title III Immigrant –Public | \$5,153 |
| Title III Immigrant -Non-Public | \$403 |
| Title IV Public | \$1,696 |
| Title IV Non-Public | \$1,747 |

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

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 Eugenia Tavarez as a Substitute Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year.
2. That the Board of Education designate Michael Henzel as the Affirmative Action Officer/ Human Resource Officer and Susan Cole-Klepper as the Secondary Human Resource Officer, for the River Edge School District for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Veronica Kim, ESL Teacher, effective January 5, 2021.

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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, with the recommendation of the Superintendent does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws.

2. 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 2020-2021 school year:

Silvia Farinella, Special Education Consultant, LLC Teacher Direct Services & Nonpublic

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Papiris (River Edge Parent) asked about the need to separate classes. He wanted to know if there is any feedback from teachers to see if the kids are falling behind or not where they need to be. Dr. Ben-Dov responded this was a concern from teachers of the young grades who thought they could accomplish more and be more efficient if they only had one population. This is one of the reasons we are sending out a survey for staff. Dr. Ben-Dov stated this is for Kindergarten and First Graders only. We will have to wait and see what the most logical thing to do is. We are entertaining it at this point but no decisions have been made.

Dana Andriano (River Edge Parent) asked if virtual Wednesday is eliminated will this include the Kindergarten and First Graders as well. Dr. Ben-Dov responded yes, this will include them.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Brown to convene into closed session at 6:54 PM

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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