

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 18, 2020

6:00 PM Public Meeting

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. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman and approximately 100 members of the public.

Ms. Brown was absent

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

Goals and Board Self Evaluations – Facilitated by a New Jersey School Board Association Representative

Dr. Ben-Dov stated our Curriculum Team will present the proposed goals based on our internal assessments taken at the beginning of the school year. This serves as a baseline for our goals since we did not have the New Jersey Standardized Testing last year. Mrs. Rosen presented District Goal #1: English Language Arts. She spoke about the number of students tested in the fall of 2020 in ELA, Cherry Hill School goal in ELA, Roosevelt School goal in ELA, District rationale for the ELA goal, and the three year comparison of LINKIT! Form A, in ELA. Mr. Werner presented District Goal #2: Mathematics. He spoke about the number of students tested in the fall of 2020 in Math, Cherry Hill School goal in Math, Roosevelt School goal in Math, District rationale for the Math goal, and the three year comparison LINKIT! Form A, in Math. They also discussed the challenges, digital learning platforms, and resources for parents. Dr. Ben-Dov presented District Goal # 3: Communication for Hybrid and Virtual Models of Instruction. She spoke about highlights and next steps. Ms. Moran presented District Goal #4: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She spoke about highlights and next steps. Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Rosen, Mr. Werner, and Ms. Moran answered all questions that were asked.

Mr. Matt Lee, from New Jersey School Boards Association, reviewed the board's self-evaluations with the board members. He helped the board develop the Board Goals. During this meeting the board members were able to interact and ask questions. Mr. Lee answered all questions that were asked.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov thanked the entire educational community for keeping everyone as safe as they can be in school. None of the positive infections have been spread throughout the schools, as far as we know. There hasn't been an outbreak in any single class or section.
- Learning in New Bridge Center will be virtual until November 30th. The decision was made in collaboration with our Public Health Nurse, Ms. Faustini. Based on the information we had the decision was made because two individuals in that building have tested positive within 14 days. The opinion of Ms. Faustini, the nurses, the principals, and the superintendent was that there was no reason this should affect Cherry Hill School or Roosevelt School.
- The positivity rate in River Edge is growing as it is in Bergen County and New Jersey. We will wait for information from our local health department. Hopefully, they will give us an answer to see if we should remain reactive in our decisions by going case by case or is there any reason to be preemptive in our decisions in terms of closures.
- We held a 2nd Cup of Coffee meeting on the evening of Monday, November 16th. It was well attended with questions regarding both the next phase and the possibility of being completely virtual.
- We have been working hard on the staff and parent surveys. The Joint Pandemic Response Team made modifications and our Team went back to implement these modifications within the format the survey allows. The survey will go out on Friday. We expect to have the results approximately two weeks later. We will then analyze them and present results. We hope this survey will provide us with the data that will allow us to implement whatever improvements we can to our current instructional model.
- We held a Technology Meeting today, facilitated by Ms. Heitman that dealt with items such as equipment, professional development, challenges experienced, and programs and resources that are needed. We will continue to discuss next phases and what virtual learning will look like if we have to resort to that.
- We will hold a Parent Academy on November 23rd and it will be about Assessments and Report Cards because report cards and virtual conferences are coming up. These will take place on Tuesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 10th. The report card portal will open on Monday, December 7th.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mrs. Heitman has seen some creative lessons in our classrooms. She would like to start showcasing them at our staff meetings.
- Mrs. Heitman thanked the staff for their flexibility, insight, and diligence during this time.
- We are trying to be proactive with scheduling substitutes. We created a system for the substitutes to zoom in and follow lesson plans of our teachers. This has been successful.
- We are trying to be consistent for parents with material pick up. The pick-up is this Friday, November 20th for Cherry Hill School between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.
- We are trying to reschedule a picture day make-up. It's not an easy task to do with all that is going on, but we will get it done.
- The teachers and staff are working on the scheduling of our conferences that will be virtual. These will take place on Tuesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 10th.
- This year, we have power words every month. This month the power word is thankful. Mrs. Heitman wished everyone a safe, happy, and healthy Thanksgiving.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- We received a check for \$25,000 for the Cares Act money. We are reallocating a lot of the technology expenses that we didn't anticipate this year with this money. Mrs. Napolitano thanked Bergen County for receiving this money.
- Mrs. Napolitano applied for the Alyssa's Law reimbursement. We did install the panic alarm and are hoping to get reimbursed for that.
- The Business Office has a lot of reports that we are working on besides the normal everyday work.
- There was a Technology Meeting on November 18th. We had this meeting because technology is so big now that we have to worry about the security of our technology.
- Mrs. Napolitano stated the board members are in tune and involved in the finances and the budget process of the Business Office. She feels they are very involved and not just reading the reports.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- Mr. Herbst stated there will be a virtual Delegate Assembly on Saturday, November 21st

- Board meetings are back to all virtual meetings again. This is because the regulations governing in person school board meetings stated the 25 person indoor capacity has changed to 10 people indoors. We moved our meeting to virtual because we believed more than 10 people would want to attend our meetings. For the time being, we will continue our board meetings virtually until the indoor capacity number is raised again.
- The next round of Committees Meetings will be held on Monday, November 30th.

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2021 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Edge Elementary Schools and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

Policy #	Title
4111.2/4211.2	Domestic Violence

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November 2020, totaling \$615,407.95 including checks #43940 through #44012. Payrolls dated October 15, 2020 and October 30, 2020, totaling \$1,220,756.49 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2020-2021 as of October 31, 2020. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for the period ending October 31, 2020.

Further, we certify that as of October 31, 2020 after review of the secretary’s monthly financial report (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)

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve that the following people will staff the Wellness Committee for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Erik Anderson	Jen Kim
Janel Blake	Kristin Karam
Stefanie Butler	Rosemary Kuruc
Alrick Douglas	Kelly McCabe
Leah Gallo	Christine Moran
Denise Heitman	Wendy Naimaister
Michael Henzel	Shauntea Weaver
Eric James	Tara Vernieri
Sabrina Johnston	

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Christine Morales , Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on November 30, 2020 through December 23, 2020, MA, Step 2.
3. That the Board of Education authorize the payment due to Aleida Drill for unused sick days.

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November 2020 totaling \$816,049.43 including checks #74030 through #74134.

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sim asked Mr. Herbst and Dr. Ben-Dov if they can look into the status of the New Bridge Landing ordinance.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Kang to adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:48 PM.

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

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

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator