

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 14, 2021

6:00 PM Confidential Session

7:30 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

Ms. Kang called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown; Ms. Dansky; Ms. Doyle; Mr. Herbst; Ms. Juskeliene; and Ms. Kang. Also present were Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Napolitano, and approximately 74 members of the public.

Mr. Sim arrived at 6:22 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeliene, Ms. Kang

Nays: None

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session

Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Sim, Ms. Kang

Nays: None

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC MEETING

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- Dr. Brockel stated we have three unused snow days. We will have limited flexibility on all three days. We need to use one on Tuesday, June 8th for Primary Election Day. We wrote to the town this school year to relocate polling to other public buildings because of security and potential covid-19 transmission. Our schools have been used as a polling place in the past. They refused, so Dr. Brockel is recommending closing the schools for students and staff that day. The board members, Dr. Brockel, and Mrs. Napolitano had a discussion on the unused snow days. When the board and Dr. Brockel approve the placement of these days, we will approve a revised calendar and notify the families.
- Our next date for change will be on May 1st which allows parents the opportunity to be in-person or virtual through the end of the school year. Dr. Brockel stated while the community spread throughout the state is still orange, vaccine availability is increasing on a daily basis. Dr. Brockel would like all parents to respond to the survey so it can be looked at for our planning purposes.
- Dr. Brockel gave a big shout out to the staff as Teacher Appreciation Week approaches. He has come to know the staff as dedicated and hard working for our students and families.
- Dr. Brockel wished everyone a happy spring and he looks forward to continuing our pushback to normalcy.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Roosevelt sixth graders completed a "Shark Tank" project to demonstrate knowledge of sixth grade economic development standards and concepts. Students invented a product or a service, designed it in detail, and created all of the marketing connected to it. They presented their ideas to a group of "potential investors", which was their parents, to find out whose product has the most market potential. The top four groups in the grade pitched their products to Mrs. Cardia, Ms. Moran, Mr. Werner, and Mr. Henzel. The winning group, Pet Set, created a product that holds water, food, waste bags, and a water filter to make dog walks easier and more comfortable.
- Students in all grade levels have been participating in hands-on digital science assemblies hosted by Liberty Science. All the experiment materials are being dropped off and distributed by the teachers so both virtual and in-person students can participate. The students have been having a blast and many of the pictures are being posted on our school district Instagram account.
- Mr. Henzel gave an update on our survey answers. In Roosevelt School we had about 84% (416) students that had chosen in person instruction as of May 1st and 16% (77) students that had chosen virtual instruction as of May 1st. In Cherry Hill we had about 74% (514) students that had chosen in person instruction and 26% (178) students that had chosen virtual instruction as of May 1st. We have left messages for the families that have not responded yet.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- We are working on the ESSER II monies. This is additional grant money that was given to school districts for mental health supports, professional development, school based mental health support and interventions, learning acceleration for the summer learning academy and the school year academy. It was also given for preparing the schools, testing, repairing, and upgrading building and technology needs.
- There will be a Bergen County Association of School Business Officials meeting tomorrow where Keith Gourlay, the head of the Building and Grounds Association, will speak to all of the Bergen County Business Administrators. He will go over what we can do as far as cleaning and the air quality in the schools.
- There was an Administrative Meeting this morning and Stan Stevens, our Building and Grounds Supervisor, brought us up to date on additional changing of air filters, purchasing additional foggers, and other things we are doing to be prepared for more students and staff being in the buildings.
- Mrs. Napolitano reminded the board members to complete the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms if they have not already done so. They are due to the county before April 30th.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang wanted to publicly thank Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Henzel, our School Nurses, Teachers, and Custodians for doing so much with getting both sets of cohorts in school together. It is great to see the students back in school.
- There is a Parent Academy on Tuesday, April 20th at 6:30 PM. Dr. Penelope Lattimer and Dr. Adele Macula will present on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and how it impacts us and our district.
- The board has met with a few Superintendent Search Firms. The board will have a discussion and decide who to hire to help with the Superintendent search.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky stated the Finance and Facilities Committee met on March 15th and March 29th. Most of the topics discussed at these meetings will be discussed in closed session tonight because it's contractual topics. Ms. Dansky stated the committee sent policy language to Mr. Fogarty for review concerning the facilities usage on outdoor space. We are waiting for approval of that language. Once we get the approval we will have that for a first reading.
- Ms. Kang stated the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on April 12th. The topics discussed were the summer program and curriculum revisions.
- Ms. Dansky reported on the CAL (County Association Leadership) she attended. They spoke about the positive things that happened as a result of Covid-19.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of March 17, 2021.

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Mr. Sim

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of March 24, 2021.

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

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

3. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of March 31, 2021.

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

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policy:

Policy #	Title
1120	Board of Education Meetings

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

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

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

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	March 9, 2021 Fire Drill March 11, 2021 Fire Drill March 26, 2021 Shelter in Place March 29, 2021 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	March 9, 2021 Fire Drill March 11, 2021 Fire Drill March 30, 2021 Lockdown

Motion by: Ms. Brown Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the Summer W.I.N. Academy, including ELA and Math Intervention and Enrichment and the Extra Curricular Summer Program, starting June 28, 2021 through July 23, 2021.

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

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

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS - None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kristen Marco, Instructional Technology Coach, effective on or about June 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021, MA+30, Step 14.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Tara Malkowski, Pupil Assistance Counselor, effective June 30, 2021.

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

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

3. That the Board of Education approve Allison Hammer, Part-Time Aide, for the 2020-2021 school year effective on or about April 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

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

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for Cycle IV of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2020-2021 School Year, as per contract:

Roosevelt

Harrison Mashig
Katelyn Mills
Alexandra McNeil
Tiffany Petzinger

Cherry Hill

Jason Funabashi
Kelsey Lapp
Christine Morales

5. That the Board of Education approve the following staff members for Curriculum work April 2021 through June 2021 at a rate of \$50.00 per hour.

CURRICULUM	CONTENT AREA	HOURS
Maria Garcia	World Language	8
Maria Morales	World Language	8

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
2957	First Care Medical	\$249.00	\$40.00

2. That the Board of Education approve the cancel Bid Contracts for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
2957	Destiny 23	\$179	\$40

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
Q972	Sun Transportation	\$159.00	\$40

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

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
2327	Pro Trans Transportation	\$133.85	\$50.00
1304	Valley Transportation	\$155.31	\$23.00
1541	Valley Transportation	\$217.21	\$30.00
1814	Valley Transportation	\$108.03	\$15.00
1857	Valley Transportation	\$161.87	\$21.00
1858	Valley Transportation	\$176.23	\$25.00
2221	Valley Transportation	\$101.54	\$19.75
2311	Valley Transportation	\$124.00	\$28.75
2332	Valley Transportation	\$173.91	\$37.00
2409	Valley Transportation	\$140.91	\$42.00
2472	Valley Transportation	\$627.18	\$85.00
2475	Valley Transportation	\$50.88	\$24.00
2640	Morgan Transportation	\$167.89	\$56.00
2643	Morgan Transportation	\$167.89	\$56.00
2655	Morgan Transportation	\$336.35	\$0.00
2691	Morgan Transportation	\$145.91	\$46.00
2554	We Care Transportation	\$137.62	\$35.00
1132	We Care Transportation	\$179.76	\$45.00
1133	We Care Transportation	\$210.27	\$45.00
2318	We Care Transportation	\$268.97	\$55.00
2228	We Care Transportation	\$222.15	\$42.00
2235	We Care Transportation	\$235.76	\$49.00
2739	Triumph Invalid Coach	\$228.58	\$30.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the following Addendum Contracts for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
1132	We Care Transportation	\$277.26
1133	We Care Transportation	\$307.77
1529	Rinaldi Transportation	\$246.37
2235	We Care Transportation	\$284.76
2554	We Care Transportation	\$212.62
2723	We Care Transportation	\$391.00
2957	First Care Medical	\$289.00
Q939	All Points Transportation	\$296.50
Q946	All Points Transportation	\$213.50
Q902	We Care Transportation	\$391.00

6. That the Board of Education cancel the following Addendum Contract for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
2957	Destiny 23	\$179	\$40

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education desires to enter into a Joint Purchasing Agreement and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2021-2022 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Dr. Richard Brockel, Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers him to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V. The River Edge Board of Education further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V. The River Edge Board of Education further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services. The River Edge Board of Education further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for non-public school services. The River Edge Board of Education further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for other services as requested to be provided by Region V component districts on an as needed basis.

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Mr. Sim

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Sim asked when the board will receive the results of the 2019-2020 audit of Region V. Mrs. Napolitano responded they are not completed yet. Mr. Sim asked to see the last two years of audits from Region V as well.
- Ms. Dansky stated there will be a Second Chance Toys Collection on Saturday, April 24th in the Cherry Hill School parking lot between 9:00-1:00 PM.
- Ms. Juskeliene stated the policy 5113 on the website will not open. Mrs. Napolitano stated she will look into that.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Lauren Carrabs (848 Bogert Road): what is the plan to return to a normal 8:25AM-3:00PM school day in September? What is the plan to bring back lunch in September? What is the plan to bring back the before and after care program in September? What is the plan to ensure minimal quarantine timeframe moving forward? When we will start to follow the CDC guidelines for 10 day quarantines? Have we considered only quarantining individuals within six feet or less of covid positive individuals with the intent to keep our kids in school? Dr. Brockel responded just today we started more in depth discussions on the return of school next year. We are planning for a full day and are discussing lunch options because we are planning on having lunch next school year. We are working on some plans for next year. We do not know if the Governor or Department of Education will allow virtual learning for next school year. The latest notice Dr. Brockel saw from the CDC said you needed to quarantine if you traveled but that is no more if you are fully vaccinated with both shots. Ms. Kang responded there are conversations with the before and after care program that has been started and we asked for a proposal of how they would run their program. Planning is happening and is ongoing.

Lauren Thiffault (159 Greenway Terrace): was it the company's decision or the school's decision to not have the before and after care program for the 2020-2021 school year? Mr. Herbst responded the company decided not to run the program for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Thiffault stated we did not receive a response to the petition we submitted in March. It's very frustrating not receiving a response back. Where do the board members stand on the questions we asked? Ms. Kang reviewed the process of the board to Ms. Thiffault.

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): what is the path to get to the full day instruction for the 2021-2022 school year? Dr. Brockel responded we are looking forward and planning on getting back to a full day starting September 1st. We are also working on the lunch program. We are planning on a full return.

Dana Hosey (219 Voorhis Avenue): after Dr. Brockel leaves can the next Superintendent come in and change the plans if they do not agree with him? Dr. Brockel responded that the board and himself need to agree on a plan and he does not think the board will change the plan if someone new starts. The board and the Superintendent both have a say in it. Ms. Hosey stated in regards to the email I sent, what if the people who are making those calls don't feel comfortable for a very long time removing them from the desks? Why does the school make the students wear masks when the sports in town do not make them wear it? Dr. Brockel responded when you're working on a change in order to get a lot you got to give a little. People's opinions are important when you're making that change. Dr. Brockel stated maybe those partitions will come down at some point. For now, we will leave them in place because the change may create fear in some of the people who are making those decisions. These are never permanent. It's temporary. Ms. Kang stated we are following the guidelines from the CDC that states masks are mandatory at schools.

Patti Cordts (161 Continental Avenue): is there any plans on how we will hold the Sixth Grade graduation this school year? Dr. Brockel responded yes there are. We are discussing many different venues. Ms. Kang responded hopefully in the next few weeks we will have some more information to share.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to convene into closed session at 8:57 PM.

Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

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

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:00 PM.

All Ayes

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator