

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – June 2, 2021 – 7:30 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

Ms. Kang called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown; Ms. Dansky; Mr. Herbst; Ms. Juskeliene; Mr. Sim; and Ms. Kang. Also present were Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 62 members of the public.

Ms. Doyle arrived at 7:44 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Honor Retirees:

Maryann Durante
Tara Deckler

Ms. Kuruc, Ms. Heitman, and Ms. Dansky all commented on Ms. Durante's and Ms. Deckler's hard work, loyal service and dedication to the students and families of River Edge. Each retiree thanked everyone for their kind words and appreciation and spoke a little bit about their experience at River Edge. Flowers were delivered to each retiree in honor of their retirements.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE OUR HONOREE

Honor Retiree Maryann Durante

WHEREAS, Maryann Durante has announced her retirement after seventeen years of dedicated service to the River Edge Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, her years of experience and knowledge of childhood development have enabled the River Edge District to provide exceptional service to our students and valuable support to parents and teachers, and

WHEREAS, she has been an essential part of the Special Services department and a valuable resource for the entire school community, and

WHEREAS, her dedication, patience, wisdom, and compassionate manner will be remembered by those lives she has touched for years to come, and

WHEREAS, after her many years of faithful service to education and the River Edge community, she wishes to retire;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge on this Second Day of June, 2021 spread upon its minutes this Resolution of Appreciation for her valued service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the River Edge community offers its best wishes to Maryann Durante for a long, happy, healthy and productive retirement and its gratitude for her years of service to the district.

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

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

Nays: None

Presentation of the 2019-2020 School Performance Reports – Ms. Christine Moran

Ms. Moran gave a PowerPoint presentation on the School Performance Reports for the 2019-2020 school year. She started with an introduction of the School Performance Report. She reviewed the Covid-19 Impact on the 2019-2020 Reports, 2019-2020 Data Availability Notes, Enhancements to the 2019-2020 Reports, District Summary Report, Learning During Covid-19, Cherry Hill School Summary Report, Roosevelt School Summary Report, School Narratives, Demographic Information, Statewide Assessment Results, Statewide Assessment Proficiency, Types of Assessments in River Edge, Student Safety in the District, Early Childhood Education in the District, Student Supports and Services, and Additional Resources. Ms. Moran stated you can visit the District website to access the New Jersey Department of Education 2019-2020 School Performance Report website. Ms. Moran answered all questions that were asked.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- We are still under the Governor's last executive order through the end of the school year as nothing much has changed with Covid-19 from the Governor since Dr. Brockel's last report. Governor Murphy's last executive order requires masks indoors and outdoors and social distancing. We have found exceptions with wearing masks outdoors from the Department of Health and they are in effect. When it is very hot and when students are physically active they do not need to wear a mask. This applies to Physical Education and recess.
- We are planning to conduct a full day of school in September which includes having lunch in our lunchrooms. We are in the process of employing additional aides and certifying the aides who are already employed in our district. This will be helpful in case restrictions are in place. Our Plan A assumes no restrictions and our Plan B assumes social distancing. Dr. Brockel stated we will be ready. At this point, our posting for aides has not been answered to the degree we would want. Dr. Brockel asked if anyone in the audience would like to help with lunch as an employee. He welcomed that. Dr. Brockel offered to do lunch duty if we do not have enough aides and we are still restricted.
- The Superintendent Search is moving along for a permanent Superintendent. Please be on the lookout for a survey which asks for the community's input on a professional profile.
- Tuesday, June 8th, will be used as an unused snow day give back. There will be no school that day for all students and staff.
- Dr. Brockel stated this is the last board meeting of this school year with students still in school. He stated it has been a pleasure to work with the teachers, families, and students.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel stated over the past six years, River Edge has participated in the Panasonic Eco Challenge. We are excited to announce that this year we have two teams, one from Roosevelt School and one from Cherry Hill School, that have qualified to be the top three finalists in the challenge. This year our two finalist teams are comprised of: Sajni Patel, Gemma Staines, and Sumaya Eid from Roosevelt School. This team created an "At Home" Hydroponics Kit, which is a way of growing plants without soil to reduce land waste and erosion. From Cherry Hill School we have: Parthiv Arun, Sachin Viekanadan, and Rishikesh Bhalerao. This team created an Garbage Garden, which is a garden built from upcycled materials to store soil and grow vegetables. Both teams will be announced at the Panasonic Eco Challenge Celebration on June 7th.

- Last week we had virtual assemblies hosted by Greg Tang for every grade level. Students explored various concepts in math.
- Mr. Henzel gave a special thank you to Janet Wong for her fun poetry with movement virtual assemblies. Each teacher received a copy of her latest poetry book “Hop to It: Poems to Get You Moving.”
- Kindergarten Orientation and information sessions with parents are taking place this week. Cherry Hill School was today and Roosevelt School will be tomorrow. Incoming kindergarten students will visit with our kindergarten teachers on June 10th at both schools.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- ESSER III funds amounts have been released. We are still waiting for more guidance from the state on how they can be spent. We do have some ideas on how we can spend it. Mrs. Napolitano believes there will be some needs that we are not aware of that we will need to spend these monies on.
- We are working on the Safe Return Template for submission to the Department of Education. The submission will be on the next agenda for approval.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- The survey went out to all of the stakeholders today. This survey will allow you to give input to the board to create a leadership profile for our next superintendent. The survey is open until June 18th. Parents should have received an email with the link on it and it is also posted on our district website. The survey is open to anyone who is part of the River Edge community. We ask everyone to please fill it out. The flyer also had information on focus groups that our Search Firm will be conducting.
- June 23rd will be our last virtual board meeting. In July we will be in-person at the Cherry Hill School Gymnasium.
- It was announced tonight, at the Bergen County Association Meeting, that Mr. Herbst has become a certified board member. Ms. Kang congratulated Mr. Herbst on this achievement. She also reviewed a couple highlights from that meeting.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. Sim stated that the Personnel and Management Committee met on May 19th. They spoke about new positions and positions for the 2021-2022 budget.
- Ms. Brown stated there was a meeting on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Parents, staff, and administration are on this Committee. It was led by Ms. Moran and Mr. James. Everyone came to the meeting with such enthusiasm and excitement to bring the kids together to learn about our differences. This meeting was a kick off meeting and we will start the work in September.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of May 19, 2021. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for June 2021 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	May 19, 2021 Shelter in Place May 27, 2021 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	May 7, 2021 Fire Drill May 19, 2021 Active Shooter

Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the proposed school tax payment schedule for the 2021-2022 school year as per the attached. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kelsey Lapp, Teacher, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, BA, Step 2.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the movement of Ashley Clark from a Full time Teacher to a (0.5) Part-time Teacher, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, MA, Step 6.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kristen Marco, Instructional Technology Coach, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, MA+30, Step 14.

4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Denise Beck, Teacher, effective September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, MA, Step 12.

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

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

Nays: None

5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Paige Seifert, ABA Aide, effective June 23, 2021.

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

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

Nays: None

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Tenured Staff in the REEA for the 2021-2022 school year as per the list on file in the District Office.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Non-tenured Staff in the REEA for the 2021-2022 school year as per the list on file in the District Office.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Tenured Administrators and Supervisors for the 2021-2022 school year.

Denise Heitman
Michael Henzel
Rosemary Kuruc
Christine Moran
Nevin Werner

9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following Non-tenured Administrators and Supervisors for the 2021-2022 school year.

Eric James
Meagan Yorio

10. That the Board of Education approve the employment of Stan Stevens, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a salary on file in the District Office.
11. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 School Year salaries of the non-represented employees. (Addendum)
12. That the Board of Education approve the salary guide for part-time/hourly Employee Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. (Addendum)
13. That the Board of Education approve the salary guide for ABA Aides 2021-2022 school year. (Addendum)
14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following Aides for the Summer Academic Programs and the Summer Extracurricular Programs, from June 28, 2021 to July 23, 2021.

Alycia Campisi
Gina Chamberlain
Eugenia Tavaraz

15. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following instructional aides for the Extended School Year Program, from June 28, 2021 to July 23, 2021, up to 4 hours per day at their hourly contractual rate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Kim Chamberlain	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Amanda Sanzari	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

16. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following teachers at their contractual hourly rate, for the Extended School Year Program, from June 28, 2021 to July 23, 2021 up to 4 hours per day at their hourly contractual rate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Jessica Barbo	8:30AM - 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Noy Sapir	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Abby Burns-Paterson	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Kelly McCabe	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Emma Halik	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Reem Bowers	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)
Gina Duprey (Speech)	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, 5 days per week)

17. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following teacher at her contractual hourly rate, for the Extended School Year Program, from July 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021 up to 4 hours per day at her hourly contractual rate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Laura Linder	8:30AM – 12:30PM (4 hrs/day, up to 5 days per week)

18. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following instructional aides for the Extended School Year Preschool Program, from July 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021, 4 hours per day, 5 days per week at their hourly contractual rate.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Donna Meyer	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Patricia Rodriguez	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

19. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of ABA Aides for the Building Bridges and Building Connections Extended School Year Program, from July 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Akdemir, Ozen	Lekkas, Thelexiopi
Bastable, Mary	Lloyd, Sheryl
Belits, Helen	Manning, Wendy
Benitez, Francisco	Mescall, Keri
Blackwell, Alexandria	Nyhan, Catherine
Campos, Michele	Ofshinsky, Sandra
Capozzi, Rhonda	Rivera, Joanne
Cetro, Justin	Satterfield, Jarae
Connors, Deborah	Spinetti, Lisa
Delucia, Amanda	Valentine, Tammy
Falla, Debbie	Wallace, Deanna
Ferrigno, Nicolette	Wallschleger, Chelsea
Fitzpatrick, Julie	Watson, Christine
Gonzalez, Jane	Yphantides, Laura
Grosso, Adam	
Lawler, Kathleen	

20. That the Board of Education approve, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following part-time Technology Assistants, for a maximum of a combined total of 400 hours at a rate of \$12.00 per hour, for the period of July 6, 2021 to August 27, 2021.

Kevin Kabiling
Dylan Poole

21. That the Board of Education approve the following staff members for Summer Curriculum work at a rate of \$50.00 per hour

STAFF MEMBER	CONTENT AREA	HOURS
Kara Cuadra	Visual Performing Arts - Music	15
Kelly Dent	Visual Performing Arts - Music	15
Brian Urban	Visual Performing Arts - Music	15
Michelle Attardi	Visual Performing Arts - Art	15
Leah Del Guidice	Visual Performing Arts - Art	15
Jessica Barbo	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Janel Blake	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Reem Bowers	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Leah Del Guidice	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Nichol DelRosso	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Kelly Dent	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Leah Gallo	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Melissa Gant	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Gianna Hrnciar	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Caitlin Ryan	Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion	6
Kismet Bohajian	ELA Enrichment	6
Abby Burns-Paterson	ELA Enrichment	6
Caroline Church	ELA Enrichment	6
Leah Gallo	ELA Enrichment	6
Melissa Gant	ELA Enrichment	6
Katie O'Reilly	ELA Enrichment	6
Michelle Parisi	ELA Enrichment	6
MaryAnn Crudello	Math Enrichment	6
Sharon Fadini	Math Enrichment	6
Sandy Gerbino	Math Enrichment	6
Jamie Jaskot	Math Enrichment	6
Lauren Proda	Math Enrichment	6
Noy Sapir	Math Enrichment	6
Andrea Siclari	Math Enrichment	6

22. WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator has been unable to take the vacation leave that accrued to her this year because of duties directly related to the present public health emergency declared by the Governor; and
WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator's employment agreement limits the number of days that may be accrued in a given year and used in the next succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:30-9.1, the Board is authorized to establish a plan to allow the School Business Administrator's vacation leave to accumulate until the leave is used or the School Business Administrator is compensated for her accrued vacation leave; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the River Edge School District to develop a plan to allow the School Business Administrator to accumulate vacation leave accrued during the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the following plan for the School Business Administrator who has accrued vacation leave in the 2020-2021 school year only:

1. The School Business Administrator shall be required to carry over the maximum number of days allowed under her Employment Agreement before selecting any other option in the plan.
2. After deducting the maximum number of days allowed to be carried over under the Employment Agreement, the School Business Administrator may elect to cash-out up to ten (10) of their remaining vacation days at her respective per diem salaries.

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the contract with Bergen County Special Services School for 192/193 services to non-public schools for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following therapists for the Extended School Year Program from July 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021, not to exceed 35 hours.

Karen Willick, KB Therapy LLC, Occupational Therapist (up to 5 days per week) 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, at their contractual rate

Nicole Hill (J&J Therapy) Physical Therapist (up to 2 days per week) (Region V) 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, at their contractual rate

3. That the Board of Education approve Care Plus NJ, as a service provider effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, up to a maximum of \$65,000.

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

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

Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve with the recommendation of the Superintendent, the employment of the Region V Staff for the 2021-2022 school year as per the attached. (Addendum)

Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Ms. Doyle

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

Nays: None

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sim asked to have a conversation on how to include our community with board meetings when meetings go to in person in July. The board members had a conversation and it was decided to have board meetings in person with a virtual component. The board does encourage the public to attend in person when they can. Mrs. Napolitano and Dr. Brockel will meet with the Technology Team to work out all of the details.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Lauren Thiffault (159 Greenway Terrace): expressed how she was disappointed that the district has not made a bigger push for in-person full day this school year. Ms. Kang thanked her for her comment.

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): expressed how we have made progress since Dr. Brockel has come to the district, but the lack of the issue of getting the students back for in-person full day for this school year was not good. He wishes he would have seen more for this school year. Ms. Kang thanked him for his comments.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Brown to convene into closed session at 9:04 PM.

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

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Herbst, seconded by Mr. Sim to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:09 PM.

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

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator