

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

***“Building Bright Futures Together”***

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – September 23, 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**

Mr. Herbst read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Ms. Dansky; Ms. Kang; Mr. Sim; Mr. Herbst. Also present were Mrs. Napolitano, Dr. Ben-Dov, Mrs. Heitman, and approximately 40 members of the public.

Ms. Juskeliene arrived at 6:14 PM  
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

Dr. Ben-Dov asked all to join her in a moment of silence for Congressman John Lewis and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She said that our country lost two civil rights giants that stood for everything to which our education should aspire. A moment of silence was held in their honor and memory.

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed the new staff to the River Edge School District. Each staff member introduced themselves.

Janet Cohen- Roosevelt School - 2nd Grade Teacher  
Jason Funabashi - Cherry Hill School - Leave Replacement 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Kelsey Lapp - Cherry Hill School - Leave Replacement 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Harrison Mashig - Cherry Hill School - Leave Replacement 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Diana Maurice – New Bridge Center - Leave Replacement Building Bridges Teacher  
Kaitlyn Mills – Roosevelt School - Leave Replacement 1st Grade Teacher  
Tiffany Petzinger – Roosevelt School – Academic Interventionist

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov attended her County Meeting on Monday. We still do not have information on state testing. We do know that schools are supposed to be closed on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, whether or not they are a polling place. Specific protocols are to come soon.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated that we were promised guidance on evaluations and observations which are now starting in schools, but that information did not come until Monday Night. A memo came from the Department of Education that had a preference for in person observations. This received discussion from different sources because the feeling was it increases the presence of more adults in classrooms and that is what we were trying to avoid. There are options for virtual observations and options for portfolio assessments. We need to recreate a committee called DEAC (District Evaluation Advisory Committee) to give input for the observation decisions. This Committee consists of one board member, one parent from each school, teachers, and administrators. This Committee and the SCIP (School Improvement Panel) Committee will come up with recommendations and we will then create our evaluation model. Dr. Ben-Dov would like to have a DEAC meeting next Wednesday and the Principals will have the SCIP meetings this week. At the first faculty meeting of the month, we hope to be ready to announce our model with everyone's input and participation.
- Dr. Ben-Dov thanked all who helped with implementing our Phase-in plan. The implementation has been very successful. Our Building Bridges/Building Connections, Pre-School, and Kindergarten classes have been in school and are doing well. Dr. Ben-Dov has visited most cohorts that are in-person which went well.
- Dr. Ben-Dov read the following River Edge School District Student Safety Data Report: As reported to the State, during reporting Period 2 from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. There were no HIB investigations reported for the River Edge School District. Since schools were closed due to Covid-19 pandemic starting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, any HIB investigations after that date would have involved cyber bullying which was not reported and not investigated. Dr. Ben-Dov discussed some of the HIB training and activities designed to prevent bullying that are being implemented by the River Edge School District.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mrs. Heitman thanked the PTO's from both schools for our welcome back breakfast for the staff.
- We have our Building Connections/Building Bridges, Pre-k, and Kindergarten back in our buildings. We "phased them in" successfully. The students are getting comfortable in their schedules whether they are hybrid or virtual.
- Pick up of materials was at both schools last week. Mrs. Heitman thanked the custodians and teachers for being so organized. She stated this went very well. We will be doing this every two weeks for grades 2-6 and every week for grades k-1 moving forward.
- Teachers are doing a great job and are comfortable on the webcam and live streaming. Mrs. Heitman thanked them for all of their hard work.

- Mr. Softee will visit Cherry Hill School tomorrow at 3:00PM. He is donating an ice cream to each staff member because he feels teachers are so important and wants to recognize them and thank them for their service. Mr. Softee visited Roosevelt School on Monday. The staff is extremely happy and grateful for this.
- Parents are using our Parent Support Email. We were informed that the emails are getting less each day.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Our desk top barriers are in and we are in the process of putting them on the desks. Each student will have one in their classroom.
- We received additional signage for the outside of the buildings reminding people to social distance from one another.
- We did receive more air purifiers and more shipments are on the way. We are placing them in rooms that are in most need of them.
- The cleaning process is going very well. They are cleaning between classes and there is a deep clean on virtual Wednesdays. The custodians are working very hard and we welcome our new leave replacement custodian to the team.
- We just received word today of some additional Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant allocations. We received an allocation of \$31,000. We are waiting on clarity on how this will be released and we have a list of what it can be used for.

### **PRESIDENT**

Mr. Herbst reported on the following:

- There will be a Bergen County School Board Association Meeting on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Herbst will resend the link to the board members so they have the information for the meeting.
- Committees will be meeting on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Finance and Facilities will meet from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Curriculum and Instruction from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Personnel and Management from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- Mr. Herbst sent out the link to the Board Self Evaluations to the board members. He reminded the board to please complete this soon.

### **COMMITTEES**

Ms. Dansky attended a CAL (Community Association Leadership) meeting on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The New Jersey School Board Association Director of Governmental Relations, Jonathon Pushman was the guest speaker. He stated not to expect any additional surprises regarding the budget. They spoke about an extremely successful program for high schools called SBYS (Student Base Youth Services). This is an SEL program for high school that was cut from the state budget. They are attempting to put it back into the budget because of the outcry across the state. They also reminded everyone to register for the Bergen County School Board Association Meeting on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of August 26, 2020.

**Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Mr. Sim**

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst

Nays: None, Abstained: Ms. Kang

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of September 9, 2020.
3. That the Board of Education approve the list on file in the district office of pupil records maintained in the district for the 2020-2021 school year. (Addendum)
4. That the Board of Education approve the Student Safety Data Report on incidents of Violence; Vandalism; Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (HIB) and HIB training and programs for Reporting Period 2 (January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020).
5. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policies:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
6140	Curriculum Adoption
6161.1	Guidelines for Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials
4111.1/4211.1	Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action
5113	Attendance, Absences, and Excuses

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

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

Nays: None

**B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None**

**C. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the contract between the River Edge Board of Education and St. Peter's Academy to provide Non-public Nursing Services for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. That the Board of Education approve the contract between the River Edge Board of Education and Stepping Stone Learning Center to provide Non-public Nursing Services for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. That the Board of Education approve the contract between the River Edge Board of Education and Yeshiva of North Jersey to provide Non-public Nursing Services for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. That the Board of Education approve the contract between the River Edge Board of Education and New Beginnings at Grace Lutheran to provide Non-public Nursing Services for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. That the Board of Education approve the agreement for the River Edge Board of Education to provide textbooks to the following Non-public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year:

St. Peter's Academy  
Yeshiva of North Jersey  
Stepping Stone Learning Center

6. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 school year attendance of specific students at Cherry Hill or Roosevelt School which is other than their customary neighborhood school, as on file in the District Office.

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

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

Nays: None

#### **D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2020 totaling \$716,828.66 including checks #43686 through #43788. Payrolls dated August 14, 2020, and August 31, 2020 totaling \$276,081.21 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list to be 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 July 31, 2020. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2020.

Further, we certify that as of July 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 overexpended 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)

4. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2020-2021 as of August 31, 2020. (Addendum)
5. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2020.

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**Motion by: Ms. Dansky Seconded by: Mr. Sim**

Ayes: 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 Luis Cruz, Cherry Hill and Mark Jentz, Roosevelt as Lead Custodians for the 2020-2021 school year, as per contract.

2. That the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. That the Board of Education approve Rosemary Kuruc, Mental Health Liaison, for the River Edge School District for the 2020-2021 school year.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Rosemary Kuruc, or Designee, as the Division of Child Permanency and Protection Liaison for the 2020-2021 school year.
5. That the Board of Education appoint Michael Henzel as District School Safety Specialist per state law (P.L. 2017 c.162) for the 2020-2021 school year.
6. That the Board of Education approve Eric James, ESL Coordinator, for the River Edge School District for the 2020-2021 school year.
7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Trevor McConville, Part-Time Custodial Helper, for a maximum of 25 hours per week for the 2020-2021 school year.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Trevor McConville, Substitute Custodian, for the 2020-2021 school year.
9. That the Board of Education approve the following individuals for Morning Supervision Duty as per Article XIII Section 13.3 of the River Edge Education Association Contract Agreement.

Caitlin Callahan  
Gabrielle Sagala  
Courtney Sweet  
Katelyn Mills  
Gina Duprey  
Erik Anderson

10. That the Board of Education approve Gina Duprey and Rebecca DelPriorie for Safety Patrol Advisors for the 2020-2021 School Year.
11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Colleen Poole, Editor, of the River Edge Web-based Publication, as per contractual stipend, for the 2020-2021 school year.
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve, Lucia Moran, Teacher in Charge, for Cherry Hill School for the 2020-2021 school year.
13. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the request for an emergency medical leave of absence by an employee whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office effective on September 24, 2020 through December 4, 2020.
14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve/re-approve Harrison Mashig, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on September 3, 2020 through on or about December 4, 2020, MA, Step 1.
15. **WHEREAS**, an employee whose name is on file was suspended with pay on or about September 16, 2020, pending the outcome of an investigation and until further action by the Board to either continue the suspension or reinstate the employee; and

WHEREAS, the investigation was completed and the Superintendent restored said employee to her position, effective September 21, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent's restoration of the employee effective September 21, 2020 is, in all respects, ratified and reaffirmed.

**Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

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

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve Jamie Lee to conduct Psych-Educational Evaluations in Korean for the 2020-2021 school year, not to exceed \$600.00.

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

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

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated September, 2020 totaling \$286,202.31 including checks #73901 through #73952.
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:

Irene Strein	Teacher	Teacher Consultant
KAZ Behavioral Consulting LLC (Kimberly Zoretic)	Behaviorist	Direct Services
Santana Consulting LLC (Heriberto Santana)	Teacher	Direct Services

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

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

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Sim did a follow up with the OEM on the PPE. They received the first batch of supplies of what they ordered which is for them. The follow up order may be distributed to the schools.

Mr. Sim heard that the FEMA reimbursement may not be covered after September.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** - None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

**Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

Ayes: 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 7:19PM.

Voice vote all Ayes

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator