

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

***“Building Bright Futures Together”*
Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – October 27, 2021**

7:30 PM Public Meeting

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Media Center, Roosevelt School, 711 Summit Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661 and conducted this meeting through a Zoom Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Kang called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

A moment of silence took place in memory of Maddie Nicpon

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Sim read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Kang, Mr. Sim, Mr. Herbst. Also present were Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, Mr. Fogarty, and approximately 36 members of the public.

Ms. Juskeliene was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Spring 2021 Assessment Results & Overview Presentation - ACCESS for English Language Learners and Dynamic Learning Maps

Mr. James and Mrs. Heitman reviewed the results from the assessments from 2021. Mr. James thanked the custodians, teachers, parents, and the River Edge Board of Education because last year was an adventure to get every student in the program to come in and take this test. The test was administered to all ELL students from grades K-6. 63 students took the ACCESS test in the Spring of 2021. Out of 63 students who took the test for ELL 43% exited. 100% percent of the students took the test and 14% of the students moved out of River Edge. There were four domains they were tested on: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Mrs. Heitman reviewed the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). She stated DLM is an alternate assessment system. It tests academic progress in English Language Arts, Math, and or Science. It's designed for students with many types of significant cognitive disabilities. It is a completely individualized test, and the Student Score Report contains a Performance Profile. All questions asked were answered by Mr. James and Mrs. Heitman.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- Dr. Brockel stated we have lightened our requirements for domestic travel. The information was distributed in a letter on Monday, October 25th. As of today, there has been only one additional COVID case for over the last five weeks.
- The Food and Drug Administration is close to adopting a recommendation for vaccines for children ages 5-12. It appears that this could take place quickly, followed by the CDC recommendations as early as next week. This is particularly important to our school District since the vast majority of our students are within this age range.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd. Residents will vote in-person at Roosevelt School or at Cherry Hill School in areas that will be isolated from our staff. Students are off from school and the staff will have a full day of professional development that day. The Governor has ordered that voters in schools do not have to wear a mask, while the order for staff, students, and visitors to wear a mask in school still remains.
- On tonight's agenda there is a resolution which terminates my employment as Interim Superintendent on December 5th. This is the day before the District's new Superintendent officially begins. Dr. Brockel stated his well-wishes for Mrs. Cathy Danahy, as she takes over the leadership of the River Edge Schools. Dr. Brockel thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity he was given on the interim basis. He stated he really enjoyed being part of the transition of the collective efforts to lead from the pandemic to where we are today.
- Dr. Brockel thanked the staff, students, and families, who have been understanding and supportive throughout this year and a half. He stated it has been a great ride!

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mayo Performing Arts has been coming to both schools. The students in 3rd Grade are enjoying dance and students in 4th Grade are enjoying theatre.
- Liberty Science Center is well on its way in both schools. They will eventually visit every grade level.
- We had a Pumpkin Patch and Scavenger Hunt at Cherry Blossom Park for the Cherry Hill School on October 8th. Mrs. Heitman thanked the PTO for this event.
- The Wingman training went well in both schools for our 6th Grade Student Leaders and Teacher Champions. There will be more activities to come in November.
- The PDIA Cycles for ELA and SEL have started on October 13th and October 14th.
- There will be a mini Boo Bash for grades K and 1 at Cherry Hill School on October 29th. There will be Boo Bash at Cherry Hill School for Grades 2-6 and a Monster Mash at Roosevelt School on October 29th. Both schools will have a Halloween parade.

- We had an EDI presentation on October 14th. Mrs. Heitman thanked Ms. Moran, Mr. James, Ms. Yorio, Ms. Auriemma, and Ms. Gerbino for all of their hard work. We had an ESL Parent Evening on October 18th. Mrs. Heitman thanked Mr. James, our PTOs, Ms. Blake, and Mr. Douglas for sharing important information on this. The presentations and recordings were shared with our parent community via email. They are both posted on our District Curriculum page as well.
- There was a Parent Meeting for Odyssey of the Mind on Wednesday, October 13th. Mrs. Heitman thanked Ms. Hafers for all of her hard work.
- All SGO Meetings with Teachers, Supervisors and Principals are completed.
- Lunch is going well, and we have purchased some metal picnic tables for outdoors that arrived. Mr. Stevens has ordered more and we are waiting for them to come in. We realize the weather is getting cooler so when it feels like 55 degrees or warmer we will eat outside and when it feels like 54 or cooler we will eat inside and continue to have recess outside, if it isn't raining.
- CPR training is continuing for our Emergency Response Team members in both schools.
- On October 15th, we had our flu clinic come and administrator flu shots to our staff that wanted it. The Covid-19 vaccine was available at this time as well.
- We had Spot Vision Training for all our nurses. We used Grant money to purchase this. The nurses continue to conduct mandated health screening in all buildings.
- The District received preliminary results for our students in Grades 4-6 for Start Strong Assessments. As soon as we get official profiles we will send results to the parents. The Supervisors, Principals and Teachers are taking a look at the results to help inform instruction, address student needs, and see what these assessments tell us.
- We are looking forward to our upcoming full Professional Development Day on Tuesday, November 2.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (A3) to approve the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. This is a three year plan required by the Department of Education to be approved by the Board of Education each year and it is sent to the County Office.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (D6) to award the contract for nonpublic school security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G2) to approve additional consultants for Region V services.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G4) to approve the Nursing Agencies used by Region V for the member and nonmember districts.

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G5) to approve the transportation Renewal Contracts for Region V members and Nonmembers District. This was already approved but there were some changes in the pricing and in the routes.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G6) to post approve Addendum Contracts because of change to routes.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G7) to post approve Bid Contracts. Mrs. Napolitano requested we postpone this to the November 10th meeting to receive further information.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G8) to post approve the Quote Contracts because there is a need to start routes prior to the Board of Education meeting.
- The NJSBA virtual conference is from October 26th -28th. We have our Board Members and Administrators registered for classes and certification credits. Mrs. Napolitano attended workshops on Board Member Ethics, Board Member Best Practices and Healthier Air for Healthier Students and Staff.
- Last week Mrs. Napolitano reported she had a 1-1/2 hour call with Standard and Poor for our Bond rating for the bond we are refinancing. The Board of Education successful sold its \$5,100,000 Refunding Bonds ("Bonds") on October 20th. The Board will use the proceeds of the Bonds to refund the Board's 2012 bonds that are maturing from February 1, 2023 to February 1, 2031. The sale of the Bonds results in a net present value savings of \$303,454.56 over the remaining life of the bonds. As a percentage, it equates to 5.44%, which substantially exceeds the minimum 3% savings threshold established by the State. The annual debt service savings ranges from \$29,000-\$34,000 per year. This is direct savings to the tax payers. The bond sale is scheduled to close on November 4, 2021.

PRESIDENT

- Ms. Kang attended the virtual workshop. She discussed the workshops she attended so far. She encourages the Board Members and Administration to view the workshops on their own time as it will be posted for 30 days.
- There is a Bergen County Meeting on November 4th on SEL, Wellness at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be both in –person and virtual.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Brown stated the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on October 21st. They spoke about the Start Strong Assessments, EDI parent Academy, Performing Arts, Liberty Science Center, and the WIN Program.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve to amend the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of October 6, 2021.

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

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

Nays: None

That the Board of Education approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of October 6, 2021 as amended.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedule for October 2021 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
3. **Whereas**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

Whereas, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the River Edge Board of Education are consistent with these requirements, and

Whereas, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the River Edge Board of Education hereby authorizes the school business administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the River Edge Board of Education in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

4. That the Board of Education accept the District Nursing Services Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

Nays: None

5. **WHEREAS**, Adrienne Doyle is a member of the River Edge Board of Education (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, all board members are required under the School Ethics Act to complete board member training in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:12-33 and N.J.A.C. 6A:28-4.1; and

WHEREAS, the School Ethics Commission (“SEC”) determined that Trustee Doyle failed to timely complete her board member training and recommended a sanction of removal effective upon the adoption of the decision by the Commissioner of Education or in the alternative, a suspension for 30 days if Trustee Doyle completed the required training before the issuance of the Commissioner of Education’s final decision; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Doyle did not complete her board member training before the issuance of the Commissioner of Education’s final decision on or about October 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of Trustee Doyle’s failure to fulfill her training obligation as required by law, she is removed from the Board by Order of the Acting Commissioner of Education effective October 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board is required to implement the Acting Commissioner of Education’s Order effective October 14, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. Trustee Doyle is removed from the Board by Order of the Acting Commissioner of Education effective October 14, 2021.
2. The Board hereby declares a vacancy created by the Order of the Acting Commissioner of Education.
3. The Board requests that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to advertise the vacancy in accordance Bylaw 9113.
4. Following receipt of applications from interested parties the Board will proceed to fill this vacancy within the time required by law and in accordance with the procedures in Bylaw 9113.

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

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

Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS – None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated October, 2021 totaling \$976,468.02 including checks #10177 through #10313. Payrolls dated September 15, 2021 and September 30, 2021, totaling \$1,264,472.99 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 2021-2022 as of August 31, 2021. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2021.

Further, we certify that as of August 31, 2021, 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 2021-2022 as of September 30, 2021. (Addendum)
5. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2021.

Further, we certify that as of September 30, 2021, 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)

6. That the Board of Education award the contract for nonpublic school security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc. for the District for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education approve to terminate Dr. Richard Brockel's contract effective December 5, 2021, as per the thirty (30) day notice provision to coincide with the start date of the newly appointed Superintendent.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post approve Megan Lai-Chan, ABA Aide, starting on or about October 25, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Step C.

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post approve Eugenia Tavarez, Part-time Aide, starting on or about October 25, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Sarah Brading, ABA Aide, starting on or about November 11, 2021 through June 30, 2022, Step C.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following as Part Time Aides for the 2021-2022 school year.

Danielle Brown
Anjali Gidwani
Doris Mangazva

Marissa Muscarella
Mary Picardi

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Lynn Bosch
Michelle Bressack
Danielle Brown
Alycia Campisi
Kim Chamberlain
Nancy Cho
Sharon Francin
Lisa Guinta
Allison Hammer
Megan Lai-Chan
Doris Mangazva
Wendy McGinley
Elaine Pepi
Keri Prestigiaco

7. That the Board of Education post approve Katelyn Mills as a Substitute Teacher for Cycle I of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year.
8. That the Board of Education approve Jason Funabashi and Nancy Jencsik for Cycle I, SEL, of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year, as per contract.
9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post approve the employment of Jessica Barbo for Home Instruction, 10 hours a week \$50.00 per hour, for the 2021-2022 school year.
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post approve Nancy Hafers and Ashley Denn, for Odyssey of the Mind, not to exceed 113 hours, at their hourly contractual rate, for the 2021-2022 school year.
11. That the Board of Education approve the transfer of Daniel DeVincenzo, Custodian, from Cherry Hill School to Roosevelt School effective on or about October 28, 2021.
12. That the Board of Education approve the transfer of Timothy Lesko, Custodian, from Roosevelt School to Cherry Hill School effective on or about October 28, 2021.
13. 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 2021-2022 school year.
14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Pauline Sheridan, Region V Temporary Clerical Assistant, not to exceed 125 hours, starting on or about October 28, 2021 through February 28, 2022.

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

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

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. BE IT RESOLVED by the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Addendum to the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as "Agreement") between the Board and the Parents of a student whose name is on file in the Superintendent's office, and which Agreement is located in the student's file, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Addendum to the Settlement Agreement and Release, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

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

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

Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated October, 2021 totaling \$610,519.82 including checks #60103 through #60184.
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, non-member districts such as evaluations, direct services, and consultation; and services to non-public schools as requested by member and non-member districts;

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, non-member districts and services to non-public schools as requested by member and non-member districts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the consultant agreements of the following Region V Shared Services Consultants/Agencies to provide evaluations, direct services, and consultation, to public and non- public schools for member districts and non-member districts upon request for the 2021-2022 school year:

Consultant	Discipline	Area of Service	Hourly Rate/Rate Per Evaluation
Nicole Elmera	Behavior Consultant, BCBA	Behavior Analyst, Parent Training Coordinator	\$80/hr
Leslie Fishbein	Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant	Direct Services and Evaluations	Public \$75/\$350 Evaluation
Jeanne Gannon Smith	School Psychologist	Direct Services and Evaluations	Public \$75/hr, \$350 Evaluation
Deanna Wallace	ABA Therapist	Direct Services	Home ABA \$75/hr, Parent Outreach Training \$75/hr

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following rates that are part of already established contracts.

Agency	Service	Rates:
ITG	BCBA, Paraprofessional	Previously Approved: Additional Rates: BCBA \$75/hr paraprofessional \$30/hr
Delta T	Paraprofessional	Previously Approved: Additional Rates: paraprofessional \$23/hr

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following nursing agencies, which are previously approved by the Board, be approved at the rate of \$80/hr. This \$80/hr rate is to provide 1:1 nurses and substitute nurses (RN and LPN) in cases where a nurse cannot be secured at the previously approved rates. This is necessary due to the current shortage of nursing professionals in order to remain compliant with student's Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). In each situation the permission of each member district will be obtained before entering into an agreement.

Bayada
 Priority
 Aveanna
 Horizon Healthcare
 Star Pediatrics

5. That the Board of Education post approve the following Renewal Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
1132	We Care School transportation	\$ 228.56
1819	Valley Transportation	\$ 156.77
2228	We Care School transportation	\$ 264.09
2235	We Care School Transportation	\$ 289.57
2643	Morgan Educational Services	\$ 235.84
2901	All Points Transportation	\$ 221.68
2928	N&Y Transportation	\$ 298.96
2929	Kids Choice	\$ 253.21
2936	RC Prime Transportation	\$ 202.36
2970	Kids Choice Transportation	\$ 237.00

6. That the Board of Education post approve the following Addendum Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
1529	Rinaldi	\$ 539.06
1819	Valley Transportation	\$ 283.54
1834	Morgan Transportation	\$ 170.71
2028	Valley Transportation	\$ 231.94
2035	Valley Transportation	\$ 1009.21
2163	Pro Trans School transportation	\$ 301.82
2402	Valley Transportation	\$ 211.38
2472	Valley Transportation	\$ 385.00
2493	Valley Transportation	\$ 213.76
2480	Swift Medical Services	\$ 445.18
2900	Town & Country	\$ 476.93
2902	We Care School Transportation	\$ 401.70
2927	Pro trans School Transportation	\$ 226.25
2928	N&Y Transportation	\$ 253.96
2929	Kids Choice Transportation	\$ 330.00
2936	RC Prime Transportation	\$ 374.72
2957	First Care Medical	\$ 587.36
2961	Joshua Tours	\$ 330.00
2977	RC Prime Transportation	\$ 245.00
2985	American Star Transportation	\$ 416.00

2990	Valley Transportation	\$ 350.00
2991	RC Prime Transportation	\$ 368.01
2996	American Star Transportation	\$ 768.00

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

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

Nays: None

7. That the Board of Education postpone the following Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year to the November 10, 2021 board meeting.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Vehicle	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Mile
2979	RC Prime	\$195.00	\$50.00	\$195.00	\$50.00
2989	American Star Transportation	\$280.00	\$48.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2996	American Star Transportation	\$350.00	\$50.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
3004	All Points Transportation	\$275.00	\$40.00	\$275.00	\$2.99
3005	All Points Transportation	\$370.00	\$40.00	\$370.00	\$2.99

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

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

Nays: None

8. That the Board of Education post approve the following Quote Contracts for the 2021-2022 school Year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide	Total Per Diem
Q010	We Care Transportation	\$449.00	N/A	\$449.00
Q011	American Star Transportation	\$300.00	\$ 50.00	\$350.00
Q015	Morgan Transportation	\$218.00	\$ 81.00	\$299.00
Q017	Morgan	\$281.00	N/A	\$281.00
Q021	Sun Transportation	\$279.00	N/A	\$279.00
Q021	Morgan Educational Services	\$436.00	N/A	\$436.00
Q022	We Care School Transportation	\$160.00	N/A	\$160.00
Q023	Horizon Transportation	\$209.00	\$ 40.00	\$249.00
Q024	Valley Transportation	\$400.00	\$ 65.00	\$465.00

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brown asked the board members what we need to do to make the policies in draft form between the first and second readings available to the public to view. Mr. Fogarty responded this would serve the public well and there is nothing preventing this from happening. This is common practice in many Districts.

Mr. Herbst asked is the process by which the board discusses filling the vacancy a public matter or an executive session matter. Mr. Fogarty responded the discussion for the timelines for advertising the position and the interviews of the candidates is done in a public meeting and the decision on the qualifications of the candidates is taken place in closed session.

Ms. Dansky agrees with Mr. Sim's earlier comment regarding board members needing to support other board members and guiding them. She wanted to state that it did happen in this situation. There was no lack of support or assistance in this situation.

Mr. Herbst stated New Jersey School Boards Association sends out a list of board members who have not completed their training for that year. Mr. Herbst did reach out to the board members who did not complete their training to remind them and offer support when he was the President of the board.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Lauren Thiffault (159 Greenway Terrace): can the board approve policies and act as normal while the seventh board member spot is unfilled or is there an immediate need to fill it for the board to do their job? Mr. Fogarty responded the board will continue to function and will be able to fulfil its responsibilities with regard to the business of the school district. We have a 65 day time period where we have to act in order to fill its statutory responsibilities. The criminal background check requirements all need to be fulfilled before a candidate is sworn in. Ms. Thiffault asked if this takes place in December will you put someone in for a couple of days. Mr. Fogarty stated the board has to fill its statutory responsibilities so it can very well happen. There is also an election so there will be an elected board member as a result of the election so that is also a consideration.

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): what were the benchmarks to determine those were good assessments are they being compared to other districts, are they being compared to other years? Why are we so positive about them? Mr. James responded he is so positive about them because last year it was a challenge to get students inside of the building alone and the assess test was taken for several days. A lot of things needed to be rescheduled to get this testing done and we had a certain time frame to get it done. Mr. James thought it was a success. Part of the benchmark is to score a 4.5 the students that exited scored a 4.5 or higher to exist. Last year, students that exited was 34%. For the students to increase an additional 10% is a success. Mrs. Heitman stated Start Strong is new for our New Jersey Learning Standards Assessments. We are using them in a diagnostic sense to see where the students are after they take this assessment and compare it to our internal assessment. Its how we use the results will make a difference to our students moving forward.

Joe Carrabs (848 Bogert Road): shared his personal experience of his daughter having to quarantine due to a classmate testing positive. He stated this policy does have an effect. He stated it has a negative impact on the children who are being quarantined. This is impacting his daughter in a negative way. He would like the board to look at the quarantine policy moving forward. What numbers/percentages are we looking for where we can walk away from the masks and quarantines? Dr. Brockel responded the CDC recommends 10 days for international travel. The

quarantine also goes into effect if there is close contact with a person who has covid, within 3 feet. We have lightened up on our domestic travel recently where we are not requiring quarantine for domestic travel. We are asking for a negative covid test. We have not changed anything for international travel.

Dimitrios Papiris (330 Taft Road): is there a financial impact to the River Edge residents as far tax money or to the budget to the board of education to have Mr. Fogarty involved in removing a board member? Mr. Fogarty responded I am not removing a board member; the board member was removed by the Commissioner of Education. Yes, there is a financial impact to the taxpayers for the time I have been here this evening and the District will be billed at our hourly rate.

Lauren Thiffault (159 Greenway Terrace): what is the impact of the air purifiers? Mrs. Napolitano responded she was talking about the Bipolar Ionization Units that go on the roof top units. They break down any virus particles. It's supposed to enhance the air quality by using the bipolar method. It helps reduce the likelihood of the spread. The cost was approximately \$12,000 and we used the CARES money to purchase them.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:56 PM.

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

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

Nays: None

Louise Napolitano

Board Secretary/Business Administrator