

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

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 10, 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 7:31 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Sim, Ms. Kang. Also present were Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 27 members of the public.

Ms. Brown was absent

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

**REPORTS**

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- During the past several months Dr. Brockel has talked about the recommendations and requirements surrounding the pandemic. The good news throughout those months is that the rules under which we have lived appear to be changing and becoming less burdensome.
- Two weeks ago vaccines for children were on the verge of being approved and now that has happened! Although no guidelines have been released to school districts on how this should occur, we urge parents to take advantage of this opportunity to seek out the vaccine. Widespread vaccination among students may have impact on quarantine rules, close contact, and masking. Dr. Brockel stated he is not predicting this; however, it all seems related.

- On tonight's agenda there is the submission of the District Performance Report, known as the DPR, which is required to be submitted for the QSAC evaluation. We have assessed ourselves in all the standard operating procedures in each major category. In preparation for the site visit in February, we will be collecting evidence to support our self-assessment.
- Also, on tonight's agenda are District and School goals focused upon ELA, Math, Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). When compared to other Districts in our District Factor Grouping, River Edge continues to perform very well in Math and ELA. We continue to push for higher benchmarks through our goals, never resting on our past success; rather challenging our students to reach higher.
- Tomorrow is Veteran's Day! I want to recognize our veterans tonight, both past and present, and offer a sincere gratitude for their service. Our District will be participating in a ceremony tomorrow morning at Veteran's Memorial Park to join the Borough in honoring our veterans.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- All pictures are complete in both schools, including retakes. Mr. Henzel gave a special thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out.
- Both schools will honor our veterans with a ceremony at Memorial park. Students in fifth and sixth grade will attend the ceremony and the student council presidents from both schools, along with Dr. Brockel, will address the crowd.
- Noetic Math competition starts tomorrow in both schools. The Noetic Math competition is for grades 2-6 and runs for about two weeks. The goal of the competition is to encourage students' interest in math, to develop their problem solving skills, and to inspire them to excel in math.
- We have our next parent academy next week entitled What Do I Need to Know About SEL? How can parents support social emotional learning beyond the classroom? It will take place in the Cherry Hill Multi-Purpose Room on Tuesday, November 16th from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The presenters for this are Ms. Moran, Ms. Blake, Ms. Cameron, and Mr. Douglas. They will share tips, strategies, and activities to enhance social emotional skills that are essential for student learning in and out of the classroom.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (A7) to approve the Health and Safety Evaluations of Schools Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance. This is done each year and is a requirement for QSAC. It is a checklist for the buildings.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (A8) to approve the River Edge Purchasing Manual. We approve and review this every year. This is the procedures and process for purchasing in a state program which is done each year.

- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (D1) to approve an amendment to FY 22 IDEA Grant for carryover funds for both public and nonpublic schools. These are funds that were not fully used last year.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (D2) to approve an amendment to the FY 22 Title Grant for carryover funds for both public and nonpublic schools. Mrs. Napolitano met with the nonpublic schools to allocate and review the money they have spent this year and the money that will be re-allocated for next year.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G1) to approve the agreement with the Bylaws of Region V. All the member Districts will be approving this.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G2) to rescind Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. This motion was postponed at our last board meeting.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G3) to post approve Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G4) to approve a correction, a typo, to a Bid Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G5) to approve Quote Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.
- There are motions on tonight's agenda (G6 and G7) to approve Jointure Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.
- On Thursday, November 4th we had our bond closing in connection with the \$5,100,000 Refunding School Bonds, Series 2021. As a result of this transaction the Board will realize \$317,825 in budgetary savings over the remaining life of the bonds. This transaction resulted in a 5.44% net present value savings, far exceeding the 3% threshold established for local public entities in New Jersey.

## **PRESIDENT**

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- There is a board vacancy and Ms. Kang proposed posting it on the District website, asking for letters of interest by November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and interviewing the candidates on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The board members agreed. We will post information on our District website tomorrow.
- The Delegate Assembly is meeting on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sim will attend the meeting.
- Self-evaluations of board members are due by November 24th

## **COMMITTEES**

- Ms. Kang attended the Bergen County School Board Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. There were a lot of updates from the County. One of the highlights was an update from our Executive County Superintendent that reported on how well our regional coordinators are working to help fulfill the shortage of buses. Ms. Kang thanked Ms. Bernardo and Ms. Cantatore for making sure the students are getting to school. There was a speaker there with a powerful presentation from Alumni in Recovery. This is an organization where young teen volunteers share their experiences to prevent other young teens from addiction and substance abuse. We would like to bring this to our District for our sixth graders.
- Mr. Sim also attended the Bergen County School Board Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> and he added that they spoke about new board orientation classes and books, bus drivers on unemployment, and mental health needs/programs for students.
- Ms. Dansky also attended the Bergen County School Board Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> and added they spoke about legislation regarding school bus and school nurse shortages. She also stated there is legislation pending that allows school nurses who have retired to return without disturbing their pension. Pending legislation on regionalization was also discussed.
- Ms. Kang and the board members made the following Committee Meeting dates and times: Finance and Facilities Committee will meet on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, Curriculum/Instruction Committee will meet on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM, and the Personnel Management Committee will meet on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of October 27, 2021.

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

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

Nays: None, abstained: Ms. Juskeliene

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

<b>School</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Cherry Hill School	October 18, 2021 Shelter in Place October 21, 2021 Fire Drill October 27, 2021 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	October 11, 2021 Fire Drill October 25, 2021 Shelter in Place

4. That the Board of Education approve the 2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
January 5, 2022	Roosevelt School (Re-Organization Meeting)
January 19, 2022	Roosevelt School
February 2, 2022	Roosevelt School
February 16, 2022	Roosevelt School
March 2, 2022	Roosevelt School
March 16, 2022	Roosevelt School
April 6, 2022	Roosevelt School
April 27, 2022	Roosevelt School
May 4, 2022	Roosevelt School
May 18, 2022	Roosevelt School
June 8, 2022	Roosevelt School
June 22, 2022	Roosevelt School

**Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

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

Nays: None

5. That the Board of Education approve the following District Goals for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Goal # 1:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate growth in targeted areas of English Language Arts, as per baseline data. River Edge students will demonstrate a positive percentage point increase from Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for River Edge will be  $\geq +11.38$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Literary Text
- Grade 4 - Literary Text
- Grade 5 - Informational Text
- Grade 6 - Informational Text

**Goal # 2:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate an average growth in targeted areas of Mathematics, as per baseline data. River Edge students will demonstrate a positive percentage point increase from Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for River Edge will be  $\geq +26.25$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Operations & Algebraic Thinking
- Grade 4 - Fractions
- Grade 5 - Fractions
- Grade 6 - Expressions & Equations

**Goal # 3:** During the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to promote awareness of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- To work towards an inclusive curriculum, content area lessons will include stories about characters, both fictional and factual, that are of various ethnic, cultural, and racial identities. To meet this goal, a minimum of 80% of staff observations and walkthroughs will show documentation that includes the integration of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- To support and enhance parent communication and community involvement, the E-D-I Team will foster collaboration with all stakeholders. Parent Academy sessions and other opportunities for ongoing discussions will be offered. To meet this goal, there will be a minimum of two community sessions.

**Goal # 4** During the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to encourage and foster opportunities for students and staff that support their mental health and social emotional growth.

- Innovative programs focused on community connections, student leadership, and collaboration with others will be integrated to build social emotional learning skills. To meet this goal, a minimum of 80% of staff observations and walkthroughs will show documentation of social emotional learning practices embedded throughout the school day and in daily instruction.
- To promote awareness of mental health and social emotional learning, professional development sessions and opportunities for staff to reflect on their own mental health needs will be offered. Information will be shared with parents and the community via letters, posts on our district website, and Parent Academy sessions. To meet this goal, a minimum of ten professional development sessions and opportunities for staff will take place and there will be a minimum of three sessions for the community.

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

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

6. That the Board of Education approve the following School Goals for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Cherry Hill School**

**Goal # 1:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate growth in targeted areas of English Language Arts, as per baseline data. Cherry Hill students will demonstrate a positive point increase from LinkIt! Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for Cherry Hill School will be  $\geq +11.75$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Literary Text
- Grade 4 - Literary Text
- Grade 5 - Informational Text
- Grade 6 - Informational Text

**Goal # 2:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate growth in the below targeted areas of Mathematics, as per baseline data. Cherry Hill students will demonstrate a positive point increase from LinkIt! Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for Cherry Hill School will be  $\geq +27$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Operations & Algebraic Thinking
- Grade 4 - Fractions
- Grade 5 - Fractions
- Grade 6 - Expressions & Equations

### **Roosevelt School**

**Goal # 1:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate growth in targeted areas of English Language Arts, as per baseline data. Roosevelt students will demonstrate a positive point increase from LinkIt! Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for Roosevelt School will be  $\geq +11$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Literary Text
- Grade 4 - Literary Text
- Grade 5 - Informational Text
- Grade 6 - Informational Text

**Goal # 2:** By June 2022, students in Grades 3 through 6 will demonstrate growth in the below targeted areas of Mathematics, as per baseline data. Roosevelt students will demonstrate a positive point increase from LinkIt! Form A to Form C, as per each grade level's targeted area of instruction. The overall average point increase for Roosevelt School will be  $\geq +25.5$  points. This goal will focus on the following:

- Grade 3 - Operations & Algebraic Thinking
- Grade 4 - Fractions
- Grade 5 - Fractions
- Grade 6 - Expressions & Equations

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

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

Nays: None

7. That the Board of Education approve the Health and Safety Evaluation of Schools Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance for the 2021-2022 school year.
8. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 River Edge Purchasing Manual.
9. **WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, is undergoing evaluation under NJQSAC for the 2021-2022 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f) requires participating school districts to hold a public meeting to approve the submission of the district's DPR responses with respect to this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, have reviewed the districts DPR responses and hereby approves these documents; now

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the River Edge Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the attached DPRs to the Commissioner of Educations in compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f).

10. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill	5 & 6 Student Council	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0
Roosevelt	5 & 6 Student Council	Memorial Park River Edge, NJ	\$0

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

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeliene, 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 an amendment to the FY 22 IDEA Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Basic IDEA - Public	\$36,329
Basic IDEA - Non-public	\$128,351
Preschool IDEA-Public	\$5,971

2. That the Board of Education approve an amendment to the FY 22 Title Grant for carryover funds as follows:

Title I	\$4,321
Title II-Public	\$1,377
Title II-Non-Public	\$1,172
Title III-Public	\$8,308
Title III -Non-Public	\$1,441
Title IV Public	\$1,430
Title IV Non-Public	\$1,218

**Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

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

## **E. PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Kathleen Grado, Secretary to the Superintendent, effective January 1, 2022.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Michelle Bressack, Lunch Aide, effective October 28, 2021.

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

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

Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Dara Lennon, River Dell High School student, for a senior internship one day per week as part of a School Sponsored Structured Learning Experience to commence on February 1, 2022 through May 17, 2022.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Christina Christatos as Student Teacher, to commence on November 11, 2021 through January 14, 2022.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as Substitute Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Christina Christatos  
Eugenia Tavarez

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

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

Nays: None

## **F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION** - None

## **G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws.

**Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Dansky**

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education rescind the following Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Vehicle	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Mile
2979	RC Prime Transportation	\$195.00	\$30.00	\$195.00	\$30.00
2989	Kids Choice Transportation	\$259.00	\$55.00	\$259.00	\$0.00
2996	Morgan Transportation	\$329.00	\$44.00	\$331.00	\$2.00
3004	Sun Transportation	\$169.00	\$40.00	\$169.00	\$2.99
3005	Horizon Transportation	\$224.00	\$50.00	\$224.00	\$2.99

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Vehicle	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Mile
2979	RC Prime Transportation	\$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

4. That the Board of Education approve the correction to the following Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Vehicle	Increase / Decrease Adjustment cost per Mile
2979	RC Prime Transportation	\$195.00	\$50.00	\$195.00	\$4.99

5. 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
Q025	Town & Country Bus Company	\$150.00	\$40.00	\$190.00

6. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Warren County Special Services (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
7. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region V (Host) and SBJC (Joiner).

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

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue): how do we understand how the ESSER funds have been applied? Is there a link or spreadsheet? Mrs. Napolitano responded it has been approved on previous agendas, there are three different funding formulas, there was money the years before, there is a next round coming up where we are working on the application, and there was a plan that was submitted and approved by the County office for the specific use of the funds. There is no spreadsheet or link but Mrs. Napolitano will provide Mr. Muscarella with this information.

Dana Hosey (219 Voorhis Avenue): does the District get any information on the State's implementations prior to when they have to submit the information to the schools or does it come along as it comes along? Dr. Brockel responded it comes along as it comes along and we are still living under that Executive Order.

Joe Carrabs (848 Bogert Road): if a student can prove they are not sick why can't they return to school immediately after being quarantined due to close contact, where with the travel quarantine it allows you to provide a negative test three days after returning from travel after being allowed to return immediately? Is there a way we can be proactive? Dr. Brockel responded we have had several conversations on this. We have changed the rules with domestic travel. The international travel and close contact rules has remained the same. We are constantly looking at it to see how we can continue to change it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:05 PM.

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

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

Louise Napolitano  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator