

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 17, 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. Brown 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, Mrs. Heitman and approximately 18 members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Summer Academic Programs and Summer Extracurricular Programs Report

Chris Armen, Supervisor of the Summer Extracurricular Program, thanked the Board of Education, staff, students, volunteer helpers, custodians, and the administration on behalf of Mr. Werner and himself for the opportunity to lead this program. Mr. Armen gave an overview of the Academy, updates to the Academy, reviewed the finances for the Extracurricular and Academic Programs, reviewed the academic data, and gave highlights of the programs. Mr. Armen answered all questions that were asked by the Board Members.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- Dr. Brockel stated he is happy to report the Cherry Hill Third Graders held a dance recital through the ages, 1950's through 2021 this morning. This recital is a culmination of instruction involving choreography, body and spatial awareness and focus and discipline. Through our Artist in Residence Program, the District contracted with the Mayo Performing Arts Center to work with our students. Roosevelt School's recital is planned for December. Our students in Grades 3rd and 4th are not only exposed to dance in a seven week program, but also to theatre in a 12 week program.
- Our School District and the River Edge Borough participated in a celebration of Veteran's Day at Memorial Park. It was a wonderful dedication to the Veterans past and present and involved presentations by not only dignitaries but also our student councils. At the end of the ceremony the River Edge Police Department was notified of an incident going on in New Milford, and ordered a lockdown in our schools as a precautionary. Our staff did an excellent job escorting the students out of the park and onto school buses which were secured to transport students to Cherry Hill School. There was never any immediate danger to River Edge.
- Dr. Brockel would like to encourage parents to take advantage of the Covid vaccine that is now available for young children. It appears that with more people being vaccinated, Covid has a less chance of spreading.
- The District's Virtual Instruction Plan was approved by the Bergen County Office of Education this week. We were required to submit a plan to provide instruction in the case that the District had to close for in-person instruction due to a rise in Covid cases. This plan is now posted on our District website.
- Dr. Brockel extended his sincere wishes, on behalf of our District, to everyone for a truly enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- There was a Lead U presentation on November 8th that was sponsored by our PTO on Respect and Acceptance. We held the presentation outdoors and the students really enjoyed it.
- The Mayo Performing Arts Center had their final performance with the 3rd grade on dance through the decades. All the students were excited and did a great job.
- There was parent academy entitled What Do I Need to Know about SEL? How can parents support social emotional learning beyond the classroom? on November 16th. It was a great presentation. Mrs. Heitman thanked Ms. Moran, Ms. Blake, Mr. Douglas, and Ms. Cameron for their presentations.

- There was a Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11th at Memorial Park. The Student council and 5th and 6th grade students were all present. It was a heartwarming celebration. It was great to be there to honor our Veterans.
- Mrs. Heitman thanked our staff and the Police Department for helping us with the shelter in place on November 11th. The police ordered us buses instead of having us walk back to Cherry Hill School. We stayed inside the River Edge Public Library until our buses got to us. Afterwards, we debriefed with our Administration and the staff on shelter in place protocols.
- We had a bus evacuation drill with the entire school on Tuesday, November 16th. Two classes at a time participated in the drill and it was very successful.
- Due to the cooler temperatures, we have been eating lunch indoors and having recess outdoors.
- Mrs. Heitman congratulated the Apreda Family and the Werner Family both on welcoming a baby boy this month.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- The Grant for ARP ESSER is being completed and will be submitted by November 24th. Mrs. Napolitano will give an update at the next board meeting upon submittal and acceptance and proposed funding and reimbursement.
- The Grant for CRRSA- ESSER II was partially discussed this evening. We discussed during the Summer Academic Programs and Summer Extracurricular Programs Report that \$18,750 offset Learning Acceleration in the Math and ELA W.I.N.
- Monies are being allocated for Instructional supplies for Learning Acceleration and Professional and Technical Services that included Conquer Math. Mental Health Allocation has included Responsive Classroom, which is SEL for teachers from PreK-6th grade, Professional and Technical Services and Materials, Jed Dearybury presentations, and books for students.
- Additional access points are being added to the buildings during the breaks to allow for connectivity for additional devices that were added this year. Additionally, we purchased replacement chromebooks for grades 4th through 6th and the lower grades got the older grades chromebooks. We also purchased additional air purifiers and the BiPolar Ionization units for the roof top units of large shared areas. Additional cleaning supplies were purchased and back pack cleaning units as well. These expenses are ongoing and reimbursements are submitted monthly.
- Mrs. Napolitano and Mr. Tee attended a presentation today on Cyber Threat Activity. The presentation was made by Michael Geraghty, State of NJ Chief Information Security Officer and Director of NJ Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell. This was a very informative presentation. It spoke about Tech Security. Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman, and Mr. Tee met for a debriefing of what the District is doing right and what the District can do better. We identified that we have met much of the criteria and have

done phishing with our staff, but we should continue with ongoing training with staff and phishing and explore multifactor identification. We will also be on the list to receive security scorecards from the state along with participating in risk self-assessment.

- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G2) that declares Horizon Transportation Company is in default of Route number 3005 because the company has neither the appropriate vehicle nor the licensed driver necessary to complete the route. This is to memorialize a transportation company that is in default of their contract with Region V and the students that they transport.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G3) to approve Bid Results from the November 9th bid. Bid openings are happening more frequently due to routes being dropped and/or new ones needed to be created.
- There is a motion on tonight's agenda (G4) to approve the Bid Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- The vacancy for the board candidate has been posted on our District website. The instructions are on our website. The deadline to apply is November 22nd and the interviews will be held at the December 1st board meeting.
- Self-evaluations of board members are due by November 24th
- The following Committee Meetings will be: Finance and Facilities Committee will meet on November 18th, Personnel Management Committee will meet on November 22nd and Curriculum/Instruction Committee will meet in December.

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 10, 2021.

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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 November 2021 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene Seconded by: Ms. Brown

Ayes: Ms. Brown, 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 the bills & claims dated November 2021, totaling \$529,618.04 including checks #10314 through #10385. Payrolls dated October 15, 2021 and October 29, 2021, totaling \$1,279,923.42 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list are attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Academic Programs and Summer Extracurricular Programs Report for the 2021 Summer Programs.

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

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

Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education approve a donation from The Cherry Hill School PTO and the Cherry Hill School Graduating Class of 2020-2021 to be used towards the refurbishing of the outside Cherry Hill School sign in the amount of \$1,800.00.

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

Ayes: Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, 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 a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Caitlin Ryan to commence on or about May 23, 2022 through June 30, 2022, followed by a State/Federal Family leave of absence to commence on or about September 1, 2022 through November 25, 2022.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for Cycle II (Math) of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year, as per contract:

Roosevelt

Abby Burns-Paterson
Jason Funabashi
Sandy Gerbino
Kristen Marco
Alexandra McNeil
Katelyn Mills
Tiffany Petzinger
Shauntea Weaver

Cherry Hill

Jessica Barbo
Pauline Choi
Emma Halik
Gabrielle Sagala
Noy Sapir

- That the Board of Education approve that the following people will staff the Wellness Committee for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Erik Anderson	Michael Henzel
Rosemary Kuruc	Eric James
Janel Blake	Sabrina Johnston
Stefanie Butler	Angel Linton
Leeann Cameron	Kelly McCabe
Alrick Douglas	Christine Moran
Leah Gallo	Shauntea Weaver
Denise Heitman	Tara Vernieri
	Kathleen Terhune

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Maribel Urena-Torres, Academic Support Teacher .5 of salary will be funded by Title 1.
- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following Substitute Teachers for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Annette Farelli
Elizabeth Shuler

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

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

- That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated November 2021 totaling \$957,645.81 including checks #60485 through #60273.
- That the Board of Education declares that Horizon Transportation Company is in default of Route number 3005 because the company has neither the appropriate vehicle nor the licensed driver necessary to complete the route. The Board of Education is filing a formal claim under Horizon's Performance Bond.
- That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Results from the November 9, 2021 bid.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide
3007	American Star Transportation	\$450.00	\$50.00
3008	American Star Transportation	\$575.00	\$80.00
3009	Shaddai Transportation	\$225.00	\$65.00
3014	Morgan Educational Services	\$243.00	\$86.00
3015	Morgan Educational Services	\$436.00	\$30.00

3016	We Care School Transportation	\$425.00	\$65.00
3017	Morgan Educational Services	\$260.00	\$86.00
3018	Valley Transportation	\$375.00	\$50.00
3019	Valley Transportation	\$750.00	\$50.00
3021	Morgan Educational Services	\$196.00	\$86.00

4. That the Board of Education 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
3007	American Star Transportation	\$450.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3008	American Star Transportation	\$575.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3009	Shaddai Transportation	\$225.00	N/A	\$210.00	\$.89
3014	Morgan Educational Services	\$243.00	\$86.00	\$243.00	\$1.99
3015	Morgan Educational Services	\$436.00	N/A	\$436.00	\$1.99
3016	We Care School Transportation	\$425.00	N/A	\$420.00	\$1.99
3017	Morgan Educational Services	\$260.00	N/A	\$260.00	\$1.99
3018	Valley Transportation	\$375.00	\$50.00	\$375.00	\$2.50
3019	Valley Transportation	\$750.00	\$50.00	\$750.00	\$2.50
3021	Morgan Educational Services	\$196.00	N/A	\$196.00	\$1.99

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
3019	Valley Transportation	\$700.00

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

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

Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Brown stated if parents find their children struggling at home or in school you can reach out to the school, call your guidance counselors, or call your teachers. They can help and give you great resources.

Ms. Dansky stated new board member orientation will be happening in –person in February and March. Registration will open next month.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to adjourn the regular public meeting at 8:15 PM.

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

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

Nays: None

Louise Napolitano

Board Secretary/Business Administrator