

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – December 1, 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 7:34 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Sim, and Ms. Kang. Also present were Dr. Brockel, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Henzel and approximately 29 members of the public.

Mr. Herbst was absent
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

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): asked can we see the bylaws that we are approving tonight?
Ms. Kang explained the process of how we approve them and when they are available to be reviewed.

Board Member Candidate Interview

The Board asked Mr. Papiris a series of questions regarding his interest in serving on the River Edge Board of Education. Mr. Papiris answered each question and was appointed for an unexpired term on the Board ending December 31, 2021.

PERSONNEL

9. That the Board of Education appoint Dimitrios Papiris for an unexpired term on the River Edge Board of Education ending December 31, 2021 pending Criminal History Review.

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

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

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brockel reported on the following:

- Covid cases have been on the rise since the Thanksgiving holiday. The State of New Jersey and all the local Districts are passionate about keeping the Districts open for in person learning. It's imperative that we continue to take preventions against transmission like we have been doing. Dr. Brockel continues to urge our families to consider getting their children vaccinated. The vaccine can be the only way of preventing Covid. The Omicron variant is easily transmitted from person to person but the symptoms are less severe.
- December is a very busy month with holiday concerts, parent conferences and a period of time off for celebrations. Dr. Brockel asks all families to check the District calendar to stay informed.
- Tonight marks the last board meeting for Dr. Brockel in River Edge and Dr. Brockel thanked the River Edge Board of Education and the families for the opportunity to serve as the Interim Superintendent over the last nine months. Dr. Brockel wished the District nothing but the best and he welcomed Mrs. Cathy Danahy.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel gave a special thank you to the Roosevelt student council and the Roosevelt PTO for organizing a coat drive. There has been an abundance of coats donated that will go to Eva's Village in Paterson as well as Afghani refugees.
- There has been a rise in Covid cases in the District. We are doing our due diligence to identify close contacts in every scenario.
- The Roosevelt PTO has done a fantastic job in transforming a piece of Roosevelt School into a holiday shop. During this week, children have the opportunity to shop for loved ones for the holiday season.
- Mr. Henzel thanked Dr. Brockel. He stated it has been a pleasure working alongside you for the last 10 months. As we say goodbye to Dr. Brockel, we also look forward to welcoming Mrs. Danahy.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Napolitano reported on the following:

- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (A8) is to approve our joint insurance fund, NESBIG
- There are resolutions on tonight's agenda (E4-E8) to approve the updated job descriptions of the Board of Education staff. This was necessary to update them and align them more closely with the positions.
- There are resolutions on tonight's agenda (G1-G5) to approve contracts and a jointure agreement.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang thanked Dr. Brockel for being with us for the last nine months. She thanked him for helping us start the school year with all in person and joining us in the middle of a pandemic.
- Self-Evaluations are due by the weekend

COMMITTEES

Ms. Dansky stated the Finance and Facilities Committee met on November 18, 2021. They discussed facility usage for events by groups requesting our facilities, REGAL a request to store a shed on our property, replacement of boilers in both buildings, renovations to Roosevelt School Library, improving our cell service with repeaters on the roof, Shared Service Agreements, Region V billing, new software for transportation, and the shortage of nurses, teachers, therapists, and bus drivers.

Mr. Sim stated the Personnel and Management Committee met on November 23, 2021. They spoke about open positions, update of job descriptions, Administrators contract and night presentation clarification, review and update of policies, board bylaws, and recommendations.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 17, 2021.

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for December 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	November 9, 2021 Fire Drill November 11, 2021 Shelter in Place
Roosevelt School	November 9, 2021 Fire Drill November 11, 2021 Shelter in Place

4. That the Board of Education approve the following bus evacuation drills for Cherry Hill School:

Class	Date	Time
Grade K	November 16, 2021	9:00 AM
Grade K	November 16, 2021	9:15 AM
Grade K	November 16, 2021	9:30 AM
Grade 1	November 16, 2021	11:50 AM
Grade 1	November 16, 2021	12:05 PM
Grade 1	November 16, 2021	12:20 PM
Grade 2	November 16, 2021	11:20 AM
Grade 2	November 16, 2021	11:35 AM
Grade 2	November 16, 2021	11:50 AM
Grade 3	November 16, 2021	9:30 AM
Grade 3	November 16, 2021	9:45 AM
Grade 3	November 16, 2021	10:00 AM
Grade 4	November 16, 2021	10:35 AM
Grade 4	November 16, 2021	10:50 AM
Grade 4	November 16, 2021	11:05 AM
Grade 5	November 16, 2021	10:15 AM
Grade 5	November 16, 2021	10:25 AM
Grade 5	November 16, 2021	10:35 AM
Grade 6	November 16, 2021	12:35 PM
Grade 6	November 16, 2021	12:45 PM

5. That the Board of Education approve the following bus evacuation drills:

Class	Date	Time
Building Bridges Primary	November 19, 2021	2:05 PM
Building Bridges Elem Class	November 19, 2021	2:15 PM
Building Connections Primary	November 19, 2021	2:20 PM
Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4	November 19, 2021	2:27 PM

6. That the Board of Education approve the following bus evacuation drills for Roosevelt School:

Class	Date	Time
Grade K	November 23, 2021	9:30 AM
Grade K	November 23, 2021	12:15 PM
Grade K	November 23, 2021	12:30 PM
Grade K	November 23, 2021	12:45 PM
Grade 1	November 23, 2021	9:45 AM
Grade 1	November 23, 2021	12:30 PM
Grade 2	November 23, 2021	10:45 AM
Grade 2	November 23, 2021	11:15 AM
Grade 3	November 23, 2021	10:30 AM
Grade 3	November 23, 2021	11:00 AM
Grade 4	November 23, 2021	10:15 AM
Grade 4	November 23, 2021	11:30 AM
Grade 4	November 23, 2021	11:45 AM
Grade 5	November 23, 2021	9:00 AM
Grade 5	November 23, 2021	9:15 AM
Grade 5	November 23, 2021	12:15 PM
Grade 6	November 23, 2021	9:00 AM
Grade 6	November 23, 2021	9:15 AM
Grade 6	November 23, 2021	10:15 AM
Grade 6	November 23, 2021	12:00 PM

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

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

Nays: None

7. That the Board of Education approve the following Bylaws:

Bylaw #	Title
9311	Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies
9323/9324	Agenda Preparation/Advance Delivery of Meeting Material

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

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

Nays: None

8. WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance GROUP as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;

WHEREAS, said GROUP was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

WHEREAS, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance GROUP contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a GROUP, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of River Edge has determined that membership in the **NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP** is in the best interest of the District;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of River Edge does hereby agree to renew membership in the **NORTHEAST BERGEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD INSURANCE GROUP** and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the GROUP as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

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

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS - None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Meagan Yorio, Literacy/Social Studies Instructional Coach & Supervisor, effective January 16, 2022.

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

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

2. That the Board of Education approve the following teachers for Cycle II, SEL, of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year, as per contract:

Roosevelt

Abby Burns-Paterson
Gina Duprey
Jason Funabashi
Kellie McClain
Lauren Proda

Cherry Hill

Reem Bowers
Leeann Cameron
Rebecca Delpriore
Risa Louda
Steven Luca
Gabrielle Sagala
Noy Sapir
Courtney Sweet

3. That the Board of Education post approve Kelsey Lapp for Cycle II (Math) of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year, as per contract.

4. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. (Addendum)
5. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator. (Addendum)
6. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Payroll Coordinator. (Addendum)
7. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Personnel Coordinator. (Addendum)
8. That the Board of Education approve the Job Description for the Bookkeeper. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education rescind the following Renewal Contract for the 2020 -2021 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
1529	Rinaldi Transportation	\$204.25	\$38.00

2. That the Board of Education post approve the following Renewal Contract for the 2020 -2021 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
1529	Rinaldi Transportation	\$246.37

3. That the Board of Education rescind the following Addendum Contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
2936	RC Prime Transportation	\$374.72

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
1819	Valley Transportation	\$858.54
2332	Valley Transportation	\$378.15
2936	RC Prime Transportation	\$482.36
3017	Morgan Educational Services	\$346.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Jointure Transportation Agreement between The Region V (Host) and Little Ferry Board of Education (Joiner).

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

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

Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kang attended the Fall School Law Forum on November 23, 2021. It gave Ms. Kang a lot of knowledge and a lot of information on many different updates that are happening regarding cases that might be helpful in the future for our District. Some of the items they spoke about were free speech on and off campus, masks and vaccines school transportation, and the Comprehensive Equity Plan.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

John Binetti and Melcer Flores (787 Kinderkamack Road): spoke about the approval of the dual room usage at the July 28th board meeting. Sharing these rooms has a negative effect on our special needs students. Their son cannot concentrate, hear, or focus on his teacher. Parents were not told or communicated that their children would be sharing a classroom with two teachers. They are not learning in a room like this, it is hurting them. Ms. Kang and Ms. Dansky responded space is an issue with this District. We are looking into a renovation for small group instruction at Roosevelt School currently. This is the quickest way to resolve this now. We are working on this issue.

Deidra Legreca (346 Continental Avenue): we need to know what is going on in the classrooms and we need to work together and communicate and work as a team. Parents cannot work with the school if we do not know what is going on. Ms. Kang thanked her for her comments.

Kate Daibes (749 Williams Avenue): the Cherry Hill School PTO and the Student Council had a Winter Clothing Drive. We collected over 950 pieces of coats, hats, and gloves. We also did another drive where we collected items to send to Veterans.

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): thanked Mr. Sim and Ms. Brown for acknowledging the comment he made earlier tonight. He appreciates addressing the space issues in the District. It will be good for the public to hear what the plans are. Ms. Kang thanked him for his comments.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Brown to convene into closed session at 8:38 PM

Voice vote all Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 9:00 PM.

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

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

Nays: None

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator