

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – February 16, 2022
6:00 PM Confidential Session (Review of non-tenured Personnel)
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 6:05 PM

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Mr. Papiris

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

Nays: None

Motion to Adjourn Closed Session

RECONVENE TO PUBLIC MEETING

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Kang called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Herbst read the Mission Statement

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Papiris, Mr. Sim, Ms. Kang, Mrs. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano

Approximately 38 members of the public were in attendance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education held a closed session at 6:05 PM for review of non-tenured personnel.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Danahy reported that the Board of Education will be presenting a Student Run Board of Education meeting. Mr. Herbst and Ms. Dansky did a student run Board of Education meeting at a New Jersey School Boards meeting and they will be doing a repeat performance of this meeting on Civics and New Civics Standards. Mrs. Danahy also reported that we are looking into dates for the Student Board Meeting.

Mrs. Danahy reported that the River Edge School District is looking for a bus driver and if anyone is interested to please contact our office. Region V will be offering bus driver training for those who are interested.

Mrs. Danahy reported that our QSAC review went very well and this was a testament to our amazing Board of Education staff, amazing teaching staff and supervisors. Mrs. Danahy also reported that our Buildings and Grounds Team was excellent and the QSAC team was very impressed; QSAC team also reported that our Instruction and Program growth data is one of the highest in the county and that our ELA scores were the highest QSAC has seen. Christine Moran, Nevin Werner and Eric James were a large part of this and it was recommended that they present some of our WIN program and Data Analysis at County Forums because it was the best practice. The QSAC review also reported that our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ("EDI") integration is excellent and our EDI page on our website is fantastic. Mrs. Danahy said that we did lose five points for Governance due to an ethics violation which we did expect and she wanted to make a note of this.

Mrs. Danahy shared a presentation on how the decisions regarding lifting of the mask mandate are made; the role of the District, Pandemic Response Team and the role of the Board of Education. Mrs. Danahy did say that there is a decrease in positive COVID rates in our community; local numbers are the primary matrix that will always be used; and, there will be no homeschooling or option for ZOOM or access to curriculum or materials. Mr. Herbst and Ms. Kang thanked Mrs. Danahy for this very informative presentation.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported that she and Mr. James visited a Boy Scout Troop Moving Up to Arrow Scout Ceremony on February 12th. The Moving Up Ceremony was a very proud and wonderful moment for all students and parents. Mrs. Heitman reported that the PTO had a Valentine's Day fundraiser which resulted in the sale of 1700 Valentine grams. Mrs. Heitman also reported on the wonderful and fun celebrations that took place for half way day which was followed by 100 day. The PDIA Cycle II for SEL ends tomorrow and PDIA Cycle III will begin after break. Mrs. Heitman reported that PDIA Cycle II was very successful. Mrs. Heitman also said that Cherry Hill School is welcoming parents on February 17th, for their 4th grade theater performance. Mrs. Heitman thanked the custodians and teachers for doing a great job during our QSAC visit this month.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano spoke about the two River Edge Shared Service Agreements with the Borough of River Edge up for approval: Clearing Snow and Controlling Ice and Gymnasium Use which we are happy to have on our agenda this year.

Mrs. Napolitano reported that it is important to mention that the Governor's address has been postponed by two weeks which doesn't normally happen with a new election. Historically, two days after the Governor's address is when our state aid numbers are released but now due to this delay our budget numbers have also been delayed. Mrs. Napolitano reported there is no clarification as to when the numbers will be released but once they are, she and Mrs. Danahy will present the tentative budget to the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang did not report at this meeting.

COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Ms. Kang reported that the Ad Hoc Policy Committee met on February 14, 2022. Ms. Kang reported that as the mandate is being lifted, amendments were made to Policy 5141.10 Face Coverings and Policy 5141.2 Illness. These policies were then sent to our attorney for review. Ms. Kang also reported it was QSAC's recommendation that our policies be reevaluated; Administrators will consult with our attorney and request a quote from another policy provider. Ms. Kang also reported that the Superintendent will explain policy vs. protocol in her report at the March 2, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Ms. Brown reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting which was held on February 10, 2022. The following items were on the agenda: Evaluating Resource Activity and how our District evaluates learning resources. Ms. Brown reported that Administration prepared a presentation on Learning Loss Prevention that they will share at the March 2, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Brown also reported that the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Physical Education are reviewed and revised every five years and that Districts are required to implement newly adopted learning standards by September 2022. Ms. Brown said the next Curriculum Meeting will take place on March 21, 2022 at 4:00pm.

Facilities and Finance Committee

Ms. Dansky reported on the meeting which was held on February 8, 2022. Ms. Dansky's report was on the following agenda items: Realignment of Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School (presented by the principals). The realignment would recapture the STEAM labs in both schools, provide enough classroom space and keep special areas off carts for next year. Ms. Dansky also reported on the Region V Budget and payments due from Member Districts as well as Region V space potential lease renewal; Boilers (which are included in the upcoming budget); Review of the After School Program's existing contract (which has been renewed); and, a Demographic Study which was previously approved. Ms. Dansky reported that no date has been set for the next meeting.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approves the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of February 2, 2022.

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Mr. Papiris

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

Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS

1. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of River Edge for Snow Plowing (Addendum).
2. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of River Edge for the Use of Gymnasiums (Addendum).

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

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

Nays: None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated February 2022 totaling \$1,192,073.62 including checks #10540 through #10617 (Addendum). Payrolls dated January 14, 2022 and January 31, 2022 totaling \$1,314,763.49 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be 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 January 31, 2022. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2022.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2022 after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended 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)

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

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

Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve professional day requests for the following staff members to attend workshops/conferences as noted and in accordance with appropriate statute:

Name/Position	Workshop/Conference	Date(s)	Cost to District Excluding Mileage at State Rate
Catherine Danahy Superintendent River Edge School District	Safety Specialist Training	March 1, 2022 March 8, 2022 March 15, 2022 March 22, 2022 March 29, 2022	\$0
Denise Heitman Principal	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference Atlantic City, NJ	March 24 – 25, 2022	\$320
Christine Moran Supervisor Curriculum & Instruction	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference Atlantic City, NJ	March 24 – 25, 2022	\$320
Nevin Werner Supervisor Science & Math	2022 NJPSA/FEA/NJASCD Conference Atlantic City, NJ	March 24 – 25, 2022	\$320
Catherine Danahy Superintendent	A New Place: Civics 2022	March 10, 2022	\$0
Christine Moran Supervisor Curriculum & Instruction	A New Place: Civics 2022	March 10, 2022	\$0
Eric James Assistant Principal	A New Place: Civics 2022	March 10, 2022	\$0

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

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

Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post-approve Marisa Schussler for Home Instruction, effective February 4, 2022 through February 17, 2022, at an hourly rate of \$50.00 per hour not to exceed 10 hours per week, no less than 3 days per week.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a State/Federal Family leave of absence for employee #013854, whose name is on file in the Superintendent's Office, to commence on or about September 1, 2022 through November 25, 2022 followed by a child care leave of absence through June 30 2023.
4. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Anastasia Bohajian for student Field Experience to consist of 50 hours classroom observation to commence on or about February 17, 2022 through May 13, 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:

Anastasia Bohajian

Daniel Nastasi

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Lara Kane for additional hours to provide classroom coverage from February 28, 2022 to on or about March 25, 2022.

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

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

Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a tuition contract with the Bleshman School (Board of Special Services), starting on or about February 28, 2022 for a student whose name is on file in the Board Office.

2021-22 Tuition rate is \$76,860 (\$427 per diem)

One to one aide rate is \$49,500 (\$275 per diem)

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

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

Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills and claims dated February 2022 totaling \$1,015,339.27 including checks #60468 through #60567.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Pauline Sheridan, Region V Temporary Clerical Assistant, for additional hours, not to exceed 125 hours, starting on or about March 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

3. 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
Nicolette Ferrigno	ABA Therapist	Direct Services	Home ABA \$75/hr Parent Training \$75/hr
Luis Penolillo	ABA Therapist, Home Instructor Consultant	Direct Services	Home ABA \$75/hr Home Instruction \$55/hr Parent Training \$75/hr

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
1899	Valley Transportation	\$271.59

5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the following Bid Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Aide
3017	Morgan Educational Services	\$260.00	N/A

6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, 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
3011	J&W Financial	\$435.00	\$60.00	\$435.00	\$.01

Motion by: Mr. Herbst Seconded by: Mr. Papiris

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

Nays: None

February 16, 2022

Ms. Kang asked if there were any questions. Mr. Sim had a question about the member district that has not paid the fees and Mrs. Napolitano answered that it is a confidential matter. Contractual but the one in particular is a confidential matter.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kang reported on new business regarding Student Run Board of Education meetings. There has not been a Student Run Board of Education meeting since the Pandemic and Ms. Kang would like to propose to bring these meetings back this spring. Mrs. Danahy suggested setting a date in May which gives time to prepare for it. It is timely since our Board of Education and Mrs. Danahy have been invited to present for the Civics forum. Mr. Herbst is in support of the Student Run Board of Education meeting as long the Administration thinks it is doable in this climate.

Ms. Dansky asked that Board Members register for New Board member orientation. It is virtual and open for registration.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Lauren Thiffault (159 Greenway Terrace): Mrs. Thiffault had a questions with regard to space at Roosevelt School and if the short term solution for getting the STEAM labs back depends on Kindergarten enrollment and at what point does every grade have four classes? Mrs. Danahy and Ms. Kang answered Ms. Thiffaults questions. Currently, based on registration for next year, there are three Kindergarten classes. The lower grade level class size is 21 students per class and upper grades is 23 students per class. Mrs. Danahy also stated that the STEAM labs have always been a hallmark of our schools and they have figured a way in which to recapture the STEAM labs that is not tied to Kindergarten registrations.

Mrs. Thiffault also asked to explain, going forward how do we not run out of room if there is eventually four classes per grade or do we? Ms. Kang said it depends on each grade level. In Roosevelt School certain grades have 3 grade level classes and certain have 4 grade level classes. Ms. Kang said that we will be doing a demographic study to see what the trend is now and over the next five years and also looking at the influx of families coming in and out of our District.

CLOSED SESSION (WHEN NECESSARY)

No closed session

ADJOURNMENT

Ms.Kang motioned to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Papiris to adjourn the regular public meeting.

Motion by: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Mr. Papiris

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

Nays: None

Ms. Kang thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM