

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

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 16, 2022

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 7:33 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Brown, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Papiris, Mr. Sim, and Ms. Kang. Also present were Mrs. Danahy, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Heitman and approximately 31 members of the public.

Mr. Herbst arrived at 8:27 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Presentation to Approve Tentative Budget for 2022–2023

Mrs. Napolitano presented the 2022-2023 School Year Budget. She reviewed and explained the budget comparison in each of the major categories for the current and proposed appropriations and the revenue from state sources to the board members and the audience. There is a resolution on tonight’s agenda to tentatively adopt the 2022-2023 budget. Mrs. Napolitano will submit it to the County Office after it is approved. Mrs. Napolitano answered all questions that were asked.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Danahy reported on the following:

- Mrs. Danahy publicly recognized the presentation the board gave at the Civics' Conference at Montclair State University. The district was asked to present our Sixth Grade Student Board Meeting. Ms. Dansky and Mr. Herbst presented with a former student that was in a Sixth Grade Student Board Meeting years ago. Ms. Moran and Mr. James also attended and went to some curricula presentations.
- Mrs. Danahy spoke about the River Edge Education Foundation (REEF). She has been spreading the word about REEF. The foundation has been struggling for many years. She is hoping that there is some interest in some one or some group to take it over. She will be happy to help shape a vision for it. A discussion took place among the board members regarding REEF.
- Mrs. Danahy met with the River Edge Stigma Free Group and Ms. Faustini. They spoke about all of the work they are doing. It was nice to learn about their mission, their vision, and the things they are doing. They also spoke about things they can do in the schools to support the Stigma Free Movement and Mental Health Awareness in May.
- Mrs. Danahy thanked Ms. Hafers for the Family Math Night that took place last night at Roosevelt School. Cherry Hill School will have theirs on March 23rd. It was a wonderful evening with a great turnout. Ms. Hafers' students planned, managed, and led the evening. It was a successful night.
- Ms. Hafers will bring her Odyssey of the Mind teams to the April 27th board meeting to present the projects they competed in and placed in.
- Mrs. Danahy had the honor of judging the Roosevelt School Shark Tank. She will be a judge for the Cherry Hill School Shark Tank later this month. The ideas were creative and the presentations and learning was so exciting. We will have the winner of the Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School Shark Tanks compete head to head at a future board meeting.
- We currently have 54 students enrolled for kindergarten at Roosevelt School and 60 students currently enrolled for kindergarten at Cherry Hill School for the 2022-2023 school year. The board members will have to make some decisions at some point regarding how many students they want to cap in kindergarten, where we send the rest, and/or open up another classroom?
- The board needs to finalize a date for the Sixth Grade Student Board Meeting. The board members discussed and decided to tentatively hold it at the May 18th meeting.
- Mrs. Danahy apologized and stated she misspoke on one of the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) reports that she reported on at the March 2nd board meeting. She asked the board to pull the minutes from that board meeting. Mrs. Danahy reread all three of the reports:

The first involved a fifth grade student at Roosevelt School who was using a racial slur towards another fifth grade student. The incident was investigated and it was found to be a violation of the District's HIB Policy. Consequences were given according to the Code of Conduct and the students are receiving support from the Pupil Assistance Counselor. Class lessons on equity, diversity and inclusion are taking place and lessons on what an inclusive school environment looks like are also being taught and discussed.

The second incident involved a fifth grade student at Roosevelt School making insensitive remarks to another fifth grade student. The incident was investigated and it was found to be a violation of the District's HIB Policy. Consequences were given according to the Code of Conduct and the Pupil Assistance Counselor has conducted class lessons on citizenship and diversity.

The third incident involved a sixth grade student at Roosevelt School sixth having a verbal exchange with another sixth grade student. The remarks were insensitive but the incident was investigated and found not to be HIB related. The student will receive SEL support during school with the Pupil Assistance Counselor.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mrs. Heitman congratulated the student who spoke at the Civics' Conference. She stated he did a wonderful job.
- The district had an author visit, Sarah Weeks, who came to both schools on March 14th and March 15th. This is an Enrichment Program given to us by the PTO. Mrs. Heitman thanked both PTO's for this visit.
- The first week of March was Read across America. Students dressed up reflecting the theme of the book their teachers read in their class. The students had so much fun doing this.
- Mrs. Heitman is super excited for the visit with the Penguins that are coming to our school on March 29th and March 30th. The penguins will come from the Jenkinson Aquarium.
- Mrs. Heitman attended a PTO Meeting and a Sixth Grade Parent Committee Meeting last week. They discussed upcoming events for our sixth grade students.
- The River Dell Middle School Counselors are coming to Cherry Hill School tomorrow to visit with our sixth graders. They previously went to Roosevelt School for a visit.
- We are working on a date for the River Dell High School Marching Band to come show our sixth graders a demonstration of the band since the Middle School students are eligible for this activity.
- Parent-teacher Conferences will be held on March 29th and March 31st. Information was sent out on Monday. Conferences will be held in person unless a zoom meeting is requested.
- Cherry Hill School Family Math Night will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd. Pi Day will be celebrated on Monday, March 14th. There was a Pi completion today and every day in March we had a math fun fact provided by the CREATE students in both schools.
- We are working on scheduling our infrastructure trial for the spring NJLA Assessments.

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- The tax levy is proposed at 2% which is a tax impact of an additional 3 cents per average assessed home from last year.
- There was a grant available for a 2022 funding of Capital and Maintenance Reserve for emergent projects. We applied for it and received the monies of \$27,450. We are using it towards the Boiler projects.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (G2) to approve the Region V lease for a one year lease extension.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang stated there is a virtual Bergen County School Board Association Meeting on Leadership on Tuesday, March 29th. She encouraged all to attend.
- There is virtual training on Monday, March 21st for any board members that need to complete their mandated training.
- All of the data that was requested from the Demographic Study was given. Ms. Kang stated hopefully we will have a report for the board members and the public soon.

COMMITTEES

Ms. Kang stated the Personnel and Management Committee met on March 7th. They discussed the administrator's contract, vacancies, technology, website improvements, recruitments, and ongoing issues.

Ms. Kang stated the Ad Hoc Committee met on March 10th. They discussed the four policies that are on tonight's agenda for approval. They also reviewed the policies of Transportation Safety, Operation and Maintenance of Plant, and Health Examinations and Immunizations. They also spoke about a quote from Strauss Esmay Associates. A meeting is scheduled with them to discuss their services.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the revised Confidential Minutes of February 16, 2022.

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

2. That the Board of Education postpone the minutes of March 2, 2022 until the April 6, 2022 board meeting.

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

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

- That the Board of Education affirm the HIB reports as corrected previously reported at the March 2, 2022 meeting.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Herbst

- That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill	4	United States Military Academy at West Point – West Point, New York	\$900.00

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

- That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
5113	Attendance Policy
5141.10	Face Coverings Policy
6173.1	Remote Learning Policy
9150	Visitors Policy

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

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Herbst, Mr. Papiris

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

- That the Board of Education approves the bills & claims dated March 2022 totaling \$793,069.64 including checks #10618 through #10692. Payrolls dated February 15, 2022 and February 28, 2022, totaling \$1,293,477.59 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)
- That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2021 – 2022 as of February 28, 2022. (Addendum)
- That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending February 28, 2022.

Further, we certify that as of February 28, 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: Mr. Sim Seconded by: Mr. Herbst

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

Nays: None

4. That the Board of Education tentatively adopt the 2022-2023 School Year Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$22,548,270	\$16,679,059
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 1,246,942	N/A
Total Debt Service	\$ 1,389,600	\$ 1,125,141
Total	\$25,184,812	

Be it Further Resolved, that the budget is approved to include use of Banked Cap In the amount of \$171,808. The banked cap is to help support the addition of the reading specialist and additional salary for full time physical education and W.I.N. summer academic teachers' salaries and benefits and supplies and materials for the Wellness Center.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Education requests the approval of a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$1,267,500. The District intends to utilize \$1,267,500 for new boilers at Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Herbst

5. **WHEREAS**, River Edge School District Policy and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2022-2023 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2022-2023 school year at an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

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

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, accept with regret, the retirement of Marlene Rhodes, Occupational Therapist, effective July 1, 2022. (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

- That the Board of Education, accept with regret, the retirement of Mark Jentz, Custodian, effective July 1, 2022. (Addendum)

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

- That the Board of Education, accept with regret, the resignation of Katherine Corcoran, District Data Coordinator, effective April 1, 2022. (Addendum)

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

- That the Board of Education post-approve the following teachers for Cycle III (SEL) of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021 – 2022 School Year, as per contract:

Cherry Hill School
Steven Luca

Roosevelt School
Abby Burns-Paterson
Jason Funabashi
Megan Lubin

- 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: (Addendum)

Name/Position	Workshop/Conference	Date(s)	Cost to District Excluding Mileage at State Rate
Eric James Assistant Principal	Educator’s Exchange Career Fair at Montclair State University	4/7/2022	\$100.00
Carrie Bryer Resource Teacher	Progress Monitoring for Orton Gillingham Instruction (Virtual)	4/2/2022	\$75.00

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Melissa Reichert, Part Time Instructional Aide, for 25 hours per week, beginning on or about March 21, 2022 through June 30, 2022. (Addendum)

- That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Lisa Zebroski as a Substitute Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION - None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills and claims dated March 2022 totaling \$955,881.95 including checks #60568 through #60676.
2. That the Board of Education approve the lease extension from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023 between Kamack Realty Corporation, as landlord, and Board of Education of the Borough of River Edge as Lead Agency for Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education as tenant. (Addendum)
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 professional development as requested by member and non-member districts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Region V to offer entry level school bus driver training in compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations. The course is 50 hours in length at a cost of \$2500 for District members and \$2700 for non-District members (course must have five participants to run). The course outline includes: preparation for the knowledge test, application for commercial learner's permit, theory instruction, behind-the-wheel range and behind-the-wheel road. (Addendum)

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
1819	Valley Transportation	\$1015.31

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

Route	Transporter	Total Per Diem
1819	Valley Transportation	\$540.31

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem	Per Diem Aide (if applicable)
Q041	We Care Transportation	\$293.00	\$52.00
Q042	We Care Transportation	\$300.00	\$68.00

7. That the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Franklin Township Public Schools (Host) and Region V/ River Edge Public Schools (Joiner).

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky asked the board members what their thoughts were for moving forward with our board meetings. She asked if we should keep virtual meetings or have our meetings in person only. The board members had a lengthy conversation on this and shared their views. They will revisit this topic at a future board meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Andre Wright (42 Madison Avenue): what does HIB stand for? Can you explain the HIB report that Mrs. Danahy reported on tonight regarding the fifth grader? Mrs. Danahy responded HIB stands for Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. To respect privacy, I can only answer generally regarding the incident revolving the fifth grader. Mrs. Danahy explained the process of an HIB and what happens after it is found to be an HIB.

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): suggested the audience have a conference call during board meetings in addition to having an in person board meeting. This gives the public a way to participate if they cannot attend the board meeting in person.

Dana Hosey (219 Voorhis Avenue): how much longer are the students going to be sat in a specific order until they can pick their own seats at lunch? Mrs. Heitman responded once the masks came off we were going to give it a few weeks for contact tracing. We are flexible with making moves so you should contact your child's teacher if you are having an issue.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Papiris to convene into closed session at 9:11 PM

Voice Vote All Ayes

RECONVENE

Motion made by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Sim to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 11:00 PM.

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

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator