

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 6, 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 7:34 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; and Ms. Kang. Also present were Mrs. Danahy, Mrs. Napolitano, and approximately 30 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

Review 2020–2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) – Gary Higgins from Lerch, Vinci & Higgins

Gary Higgins of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the River Edge School District audit report to the Board Members. He explained why the audit was completed so late this school year. He stated the State of New Jersey supplies certain information to every district regarding other post-employment benefits and they just provided that on February 1st. He reviewed a few areas of the audit and stated there were no audit recommendations for the River Edge School District.

Mr. Higgins also presented the Region V audit report to the Board Members. He reviewed the separate region financials and a few areas and stated there were two audit findings/recommendations. The two findings were corrected for the upcoming year.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Danahy reported on the following:

- Mrs. Danahy showed the board members an option for recording board meetings instead of continuing with Zoom Meetings. She stated we would upload the recording the day after the board meeting. Mr. Werner gave the board members information on the HD camera they will be using. This is the same equipment River Dell uses for their board meetings.
- We had a successful AAPI Community night. It focused on representation and what it means. Mrs. Danahy thanked all of the community members that attended. She stated it was one of the highlights of her career because of the participation that people came with. We are looking forward to continuing conversations. We have our EDI nights coming up as well.
- We had a great meeting with the River Edge Stigma Free group. We will have a poster competition to create awareness about mental health. Our Mental Health Professionals are going to go into the classrooms during Community Time to talk about what stigma free means. Daragh O'Connor, from the River Edge Public Library, has agreed to be the judge for the poster competition. The winner will have their posters framed and put in the River Edge Public Library along with the River Edge Stigma free banner. We will hang the rest of the posters in the schools and possibly in local businesses.
- The Library Media Specialists and Ms. Moran have a meeting scheduled with the River Edge Public Library to talk about some collaboration between the schools and the River Edge Library.
- The River Edge Schools will sponsor the River Edge Fun Run on April 30th. One of our artistically talented students has created the design for the t-shirts.
- Our Student Board Meeting will be held on May 18th. Ms. Kang and Mrs. Danahy have met with the sixth graders to discuss that board meeting. Applications to participate are due by Friday, April 8th.
- Mrs. Danahy stated we have two emergency days to give back to students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year. We can give two days back at the end of the school year in June or give one day back during the Memorial Day weekend and one back at the end of the school year. She stated River Dell is giving one day back during the Memorial Day weekend and one back at the end of the school year. A discussion took place and it was decided to follow what River Dell is doing and the revised calendar will be on the April 27th agenda for approval.

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel stated our Read-A-Thon was a huge success! He thanked the teachers and parents for encouraging and supporting the students. He also thanked his amazing PTO for everything they did. He said we challenged the students to read 50 thousand minutes and raise money for the school through sponsorships. The students obliterated both goals. He gave a special thank you to the students for their incredible efforts throughout the read a thon. He said we concluded the read a thon by having a fun assembly where we celebrated all the students and acknowledged their amazing achievements.

- We had another successful book fair during the week of March 28th. Mr. Henzel gave a shout out to Ms. Arabia for all the hard work she put into the book fair. He thanked her for her dedication.
- Spring concerts are occurring in both schools this week. Cherry Hill will have their concert on Thursday, April 7th, and Roosevelt had their concert last night. Mr. Henzel commended Ms. Attardi and her artistically talented students for creating the decorations for the concert. Ms. Cuadra's beginner band was excellent. Her advanced band was exceptional. Mr. Henzel said kudos to our instrumentalists! Mr. Urban's fifth grade and sixth grade drum ensembles sounded beautiful! The Roosevelt Chorus performed several songs. One of the many highlights that Mr. Henzel mentioned was one of our fifth grade students beatboxed Katy Perry's Roar. He stated the concert was phenomenal!

BOARD SECRETARY

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano reminded the board members to complete the Ethics and Financial Disclosure forms if they have not already done so. They are due to the county by April 30th.
- Mrs. Napolitano stated we have received a letter and did the calculation for the challenge to amend Chapter 44. We were able to show the Chapter 44 adjustment was incorrect based on their calculations. Our adjustment went from \$168,440.00 to 0. The revised amount was incorporated into our budget so we do not have to use the banked cap. Mrs. Napolitano thanked her office who worked very hard on this and publicly thanked Mrs. Judge who went over employee by employee and created a spreadsheet to send to the State.
- The NJSBA Fall Convention will be held on October 24th through October 26th. Board members were signed up as a group to attend the in person workshop. Mrs. Napolitano asked to please let her office know who will be staying overnight so we can book the hotel.
- Today, Mrs. Napolitano received a notice from the county that our 2022-2023 budget was approved. She stated we will hold our Public Hearing for the budget on May 4th and it will be advertised in The Record before the Public Hearing.
- There is a resolution on tonight's agenda (D2) to approve the renewal contract for non-public school Security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc. for the district. This is the last year we can approve them as is. Next year we will need to go out for a RFP.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang has met with the sixth graders at both schools to discuss the student board meeting for May 18th. Ms. Kang enjoyed being in person for this meeting.
- REGAL has invited the board members to attend opening day on April 23rd at the Roosevelt Field at 12:30PM. Ms. Kang encouraged all to attend.
- Second Chance Toy Drive will be Cherry Hill School on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00-1:00 PM.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Brown stated the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on March 21st. They discussed full day Professional Development for staff regarding the new PE in health for state mandated standards, the social studies standards, small group breakout sessions for teaching, discussions inclusion topics with students, and the new legislation regarding AAPI.
- Mr. Herbst stated the Personnel and Management Committee met on March 24th. They discussed an update on technology, the results of the cyber audit, Summer Enrichment/W.I.N. Academy, administrator's contracts, ongoing vacancies in the district, conclusions reached, ongoing issues, and recommendations.
- Ms. Kang stated the Ad Hoc Committee met on March 28th. They had a presentation from Strauss Esmay on their services and cost for the Comprehensive Policy and Regulation Manual and ongoing support. They also reviewed suggested language to be included in the Face Coverings Policy #5141.10, conclusions reached, ongoing issues, and recommendations.
- Ms. Dansky stated the Finance and Facilities Committee met tonight before the board meeting. They discussed the audit, Chapter 44, the 2022-2023 budget, our district bookkeeper spending one day a week at Region V, kindergarten registration/classes, and ongoing space issues.
- Mr. Papiris stated the Pandemic Response Team met and discussed our Covid hub is still being updated daily, case numbers are extremely low, no more contact tracing after April 18th, and setting another meeting if cases start to rise.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approves the Confidential Minutes and Public Minutes of March 16, 2022.

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

2. That the Board of Education approves the Revised Public Minutes of March 2, 2022.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Herbst

3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates	
Cherry Hill School	Fire Drill	March 7, 2022
	Shelter In Place	March 28, 2022
Roosevelt School	Fire Drill	March 7, 2022
	Lockdown	March 29, 2022

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

4. That the Board of Education approve the Second Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
5113	Attendance Policy
6173.1	Remote Learning Policy
9150	Visitors Policy

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

5. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
3510	Operation and Maintenance of Plant
3541.33	Transportation Safety
5131	Conduct and Discipline
5141.10	Face Coverings
5141.3	Health Examinations and Immunizations

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

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

School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
Cherry Hill	1st	Turtle Back Zoo West Orange, NJ	\$1,270.00
Roosevelt	4 th	Museum Village Monroe, NY	\$2,057.00
Roosevelt	5 th	Fort Lee Historic Park Fort Lee, NJ	\$1,000.00
Roosevelt	6th	New Weiss Center Ringwood, NJ	\$2,036.00

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

7. That the Board of Education desires to enter into a Joint Purchasing Agreement and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2022-2023 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates, Cathy Danahy, as its representative to Region V; and empowers (him/her) to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V.

The Board further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all (district) students who are transported through Region V; the Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for non-public school services; and the Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for other services as requested to be provided by Region V component districts on an as needed basis

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

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the Summer W.I.N. Academy, including ELA and Math Intervention and Enrichment and the Extra Curricular Summer Program, starting June 27, 2022 through July 22, 2022.
2. That the Board of Education approve the Extended School Year Program, starting July 5, 2022 through July 29, 2022.
3. That the Board of Education approve the Extended School Year Resource Center Program, starting June 27, 2022 through July 22, 2022.

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

C. BUILDING & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

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

- 2 That the Board of Education award the renewal contract for non-public school Security services/competitive contracting report to Associates Security and Investigations, Inc. for the District.

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

E. PERSONNEL

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

Cherry Hill School

Jessica Barbo
Nancy Jencsik
Steven Luca
Gabrielle Sagala
Noy Sapir
Courtney Sweet

Roosevelt School

Jason Funabashi
Sandy Gerbino
Katelyn Mills
Wendy Otis

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

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, Approve Abby Burns Paterson as a District Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC), beginning September 1, 2022.

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

3. 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
Jason Funabashi Teacher	New Teacher Institute Reading & Writing: Grades K-8 (Virtual) Teachers College, Columbia University	8/1 – 8/4/2022	\$800.00
Kristin Karavitis Teacher	New Teacher Institute Reading & Writing: Grades K-8 (Virtual) Teachers College, Columbia University	8/1 – 8/4/2022	\$800.00
Katelyn Mills Teacher	New Teacher Institute Reading & Writing: Grades K-8 (Virtual) Teachers College, Columbia University	8/1 - 8/4/2022	\$800.00
Kellie McClain School Psychologist	NJASP Spring Conference (Virtual)	5/6/2022	\$195.00
Stephanie Rosenblum Behaviorist	NJASP Spring Conference (Virtual)	5/6/2022	\$195.00

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

4. That the Board of Education accept with regret, the retirement of Victor Tee, Computer Technician, effective June 30, 2022.

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

5. That the Board of Education accept with regret, the resignation of Keri L. Mescall, ABA Instructional Aide, effective April 20, 2022.

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

6. That the Board of Education accept with regret, the resignation of Doris Mangazva, Lunch Aide, effective April 7, 2022.

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

7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Travis Smith as Leave Replacement Teacher to commence on or about May 9, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Madison Levine for student Field Experience to consist of 35 hours classroom observation to commence on or about April 7, 2022 through April 29, 2022.
9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Lani Vlasi, Lunch Aide, starting on or about April 7, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
10. That the Board of Education, accept with regret, the resignation of Kelsey Lapp, effective June 30, 2022.
11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the job description for Technology Technician and Website Manager. (Addendum)
12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, Approve the job description for Administrative Assistant/District Data Coordinator 12 months. (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

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

1. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the revised Community Based Instruction Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Dates subject to change. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education request to approve Lauren K. Schnell, Ph.D, BCBA-D to conduct an Independent Functional Behavior Assessment at \$200 an hour for a maximum of 10 hours not to exceed \$2,000.

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 revised bills and claims dated February 2022 totaling \$1,010,131.77 including checks #60468 through #60567.
2. 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 contract 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, approve the following rates that are part of already established contracts.

Agency	Service	Rates
Kid Clan Services, Inc.	BCBA and ABA Services	Previously Approved: Additional Rates: BCBA: \$120/hr ABA: \$75/hr

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

Route	Transporter	Total Per Diem
2332	Valley Transportation	\$504.20
2900	Town & Country Bus Company	\$576.93

4. 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)
Q332L	Sun Transportation	\$298.00	\$50.00

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. Brown asked if the Cherry Hill School garden will be back and also asked if Roosevelt School has a garden? Mr. Werner answered her question of what was done in the past and what they are planning on doing this year for the garden.
- Ms. Kang stated there was a Bergen County School Board Association Meeting on March 29th. They spoke about amendments on bylaws, discussions on how districts are handling different situations, and how districts are hiring and finding substitutes.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Sebastian Muscarella (781 5th Avenue): why is information of policies not being distributed to the community before it is being voted on before a board meeting? Why are we adopting policies for Immunizations, Face Coverings, and Remote Learning when they are not mandated? Ms. Kang responded policies are posted on our website which was approved and agreed upon by the board. Policies in general are giving guidance to our administrators. We want to make sure there is written guidance for our Superintendent. Mrs. Danahy responded she has been working hard and closely with our Webmaster to make sure the website is user friendly. The board created a policy to inform the public of the drafts. It stated it would be posted on the website and they are posted on the website. We aren't doing anything new to the policies. We are looking at the policies to see if we need different wording since the pandemic is coming to a close.

Ariana Hastings (107 Adams Avenue): there are two bullet points in the Face Covering policy that concern me. They are very vague. What are the other reasons you would deem appropriate for going back to masking the children? Mrs. Danahy responded when we are in some sort of health emergency we will take the guidance of the Health Department. Ms. Kang responded this policy is not frozen in time and it is a guideline for the future. We want to make sure the policy that is in place is a guideline for whoever is in the lead.

Patrick Robinson (783 Bogert Road): are there any plans to address parents questions when they cannot attend the in person board meetings? Ms. Kang responded you can always email the Superintendent with any questions or comments. Mr. Herbst stated you can email the board members with any board related questions. We have an email address that is posted on the district website.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Herbst, seconded by Mr. Sim to convene into closed session at 9:38 PM.

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

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

RECONVENE

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Ms. Dansky to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 11:35 PM.

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

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

Nays: None

Louise Napolitano

Board Secretary/Business Administrator