

**RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**AMENDED**  
**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 4, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Roosevelt School Media Center, 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 7:34pm

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Brown read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Napolitano took roll call.

Ms. Brown, Mr. Herbst, Ms. Juskeleiene, Mr. Papiris, Mr. Sim and Ms. Kang

Also present Ms. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano

Absent: Ms. Dansky

Audience Members: 9

Virtual: 44

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meetings Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At the end of the Public Meeting the Board will convene to a closed session to discuss a contractual matter.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

No comments were made on agenda items.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Shark Tank Presentation in Old Gym**

There was no live streaming for this presentation in order to protect the privacy of the students.

Families proceeded to the Old Gym for the Shark Tank presentation.

**Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2022 – 2023 Proposed School Budget**

Ms. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano presented the 2022-2023 School Year Budget to the public.

[2022-2023 Budget.pdf](#)

<https://www.riveredgeschools.org/boe-budget.html>

They reviewed and explained each slide to the board members and the public. Mrs. Napolitano answered all questions that were asked. The Board reviewed and approved submission of the Final Budget.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Ms. Danahy reported on the following:

- Ms. Danahy publicly recognized Teacher of the Year, Jessica Haynes and spoke of her dedication and hard work. Ms. Danahy invited Ms. Haynes to the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting where she will be recognized as Teacher of the Year.
- Ms. Danahy spoke about Teacher Appreciation week and shared some of her own sentiments of wanting to be and being a teacher. Ms. Danahy praised all teachers. Teachers matter to every child in their classroom and thank you to every teacher in our District. Ms. Danahy also thanked Para-Professionals, nurses, custodial and secretarial staff who know the importance of their work in a school. Ms. Danahy thanked everyone for all the hard work they do and the support they give.
- Ms. Danahy received many emails about the exploration regarding moving Kindergarten back to NBC. Ms. Danahy thanked all who wrote and expressed concerns and they are all being considered for the decision process and will be addressed at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Ms. Danahy also reported on the uptick in Covid numbers last week. Ms. Danahy reached out to the health inspector and school physician regarding concerns from the school nurses about the amount of classes in one particular kindergarten and one particular first grade. Our health inspector recommended that the classes remain open. The classes were not directly linked and a few cases involved siblings in different classes. Ms. Danahy said the total population is 710 students at Cherry Hill and New Bridge Center and the health inspector said he would be concerned if the total number of COVID cases exceeded 10 percent which is the metric health inspectors use for strep and flu prior to COVID. Ms. Danahy said that we have a Board approved school physician for another opinion and he supported all that we are doing in keeping schools open and using tests to stay.

### **PRINCIPAL REPORT**

Mr. Henzel reported on the following:

- Mr. Henzel congratulated both Shark Tank finalists. Both Roosevelt and Cherry Hill Schools were well represented.
- Mr. Henzel took the opportunity to thank all the educators in River Edge who work tirelessly for the students. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and they are extremely appreciated.
- Mr. Henzel said that they are looking forward to our student-led board in two weeks and his protege will be giving a more comprehensive report about the happenings in Roosevelt School since the last Board of Ed meeting.

### **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following:

- Mrs. Napolitano spoke about the electrical upgrade beginning at Cherry Hill School and Mrs. Heitman will be sending a notice home regarding this.
- Mrs. Napolitano asked that Board members let us know if they are going to the convention in Atlantic City on October 24th, 25th and 26th.

## **PRESIDENT REPORT**

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang thanked all teachers, educators and staff in the district and parents in our district who are also educators and for all hard work and dedication they give all of our students.
- Ms. Kang spoke about the Student Led Board meeting and there are students here tonight to observe how our meetings are being held. Ms. Kang asked that all students who are here attending, in person or virtual, to introduce themselves so that the Board members can see who they are. Ms. Kang thanked them for joining tonight and we will have the agenda ready early next week for all board members to work with their students.
- Ms. Kang said that our NJSBA field representative sent an email regarding the New Jersey School Boards Association Chief School Administrator (“CSA”) evaluation process. The evaluation process is ready to complete and Ms. Kang sent a link to a webinar to watch to help on how to complete the evaluation which is due May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Kang reported that no committees met since last Wednesday. Ms. Kang reported the Curriculum and Instruction Committee will meet on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Personnel and Management Committee will meet on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Kang reported that work with the Ad Hoc policy committee is completed. The Ad Hoc Committee looked at all policies regarding COVID and all policies were revised and approved. Ms. Kang also said that there is no need for AD Hoc policy to meet anymore, so we will go back to what had been done prior which is to send the policies to appropriate committees as needed.

Ms. Kang said that she is implementing a system for committees to review policies on a regular basis.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **A. ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

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

<b>School</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Cherry Hill School	4/25/2022 Lockdown 4/28/2022 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	4/25/2022 Fire Drill 4/27/2022 Lockdown

2. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip: (Addendum)

<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Cost to District</b>
Cherry Hill	6	National Museum of Math	\$875.00

3. That the Board of Education approved the Second Reading of the following policy:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
5141.10	Face Coverings

4. That the Board of Education approve, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the Stronge Model to be used as the District Evaluation Rubric for Teachers, Principals, and Other Certified Staff for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

B. **CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** – None

C. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

D. **FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education approve the Final 2022-2023 School Year Budget 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 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. Papiris                      Seconded by: Ms. Brown**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

E. **PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of Non-tenured Staff in the REEA for the 2022-2023 school year as per the list on file in the District Office.

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the employment of the following Non-tenured Administrator for the 2022-2023 school year:

Eric James

Assistant Principal

3. That the Board of Education approve the employment of Stan Stevens, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 at a salary on file in the District Office.
4. That the Board of Education approve the revised retirement date for Marlene Rhodes effective August 1, 2022. (Addendum)

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

5. That the Board of Education, accepts with regret, the resignation of Stephanie Repetti, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, effective June 30, 2022. (Addendum)

**Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene      Seconded by: Mr. Sim**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

6. That the Board of Education post-approve the following teacher(s) for Cycle IV (SEL) of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Roosevelt School  
MaryAnn Crudello

7. That the Board of Education approve the following ABA Aides for Cycle IV (SEL) of the Post Dismissal Instructional Academy for the 2021-2022 School Year, as per Contract:

Helen Belitz  
Cathy Nyhan  
Amanda Sanzari

8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, appoint Mayerling Martinez, as the District Liaison to the Board of the River Edge Public Library for the 2022-2023 school year.

9. 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
Nevin Werner Supervisor, Science & Math	NJDOE NJLSA – Science Committee: Statistical Review Meeting	August 24–25, 2022	None

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

**F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None**

**G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

1. 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)
Q026	Morgan Educational Services	\$277.00	\$89.00

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

Route	Transporter	Per Diem
2988	Kids Choice Transportation	\$242.00
3011	J&W Financial, LLC.	\$420.00

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Kang discussed Election Day on June 7<sup>th</sup> and that voting takes place in Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School. Ms. Kang asked Board members what their thoughts were regarding this day. It was suggested to either open school as a regular day; give back the emergency snow day or to have an early dismissal that day. A decision was made that our schools will be open for a one-session day.

Ms. Kang asked Ms. Danahy for a recommendation on what should be done that day and Ms. Danahy said a 12:45pm day would be better.

Mr. Herbst asked for a motion to approve the revised school calendar to reflect June 7<sup>th</sup> as a one session day for students.

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

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

Nays: Mr. Herbst, Mr. Papiris

Absent: Ms. Dansky

Ms. Kang held a discussion regarding continuing Board meetings with ZOOM; recording meetings or do both going forward. No decision was reached at this time.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Nikato Desai** (38 Madison Avenue): Ms. Desai said it was wonderful to join the meeting on streaming and would love to keep Zoom and also engaging the community in the Asian American Pacific Island curriculum. Ms. Desai was also concerned with impending Kindergarten changes. Ms. Desai's concerns and questions were answered.

**Sebastian Muscarella** ( 781 Fifth Ave): Mr. Muscarella has questions and concerns regarding the Kindergarten move to New Bridge Center (“NBC”) and Mr. Muscarella also said he did not hear about a referendum and moving the children to one side of town. Mr. Muscarella’s questions and concerns were answered.

**Lauren D’Alessandro** (292 Woodland Ave): Ms. D’Alessandro is concerned about the after-school program, parking and what the time line is for these decisions. Ms. D’Alessandro’s questions were answered.

**Krista Van Wattering** (180 Tenney Avenue): Ms. Van Wattering has concerns about working parents; extra care and when parents will know whether their child is going to Roosevelt School. Ms. Wattering’s concerns will be further addressed.

**Natalia Bletel** (421 Windsor Road): Ms. Bletel had comments about the moving line as to where Roosevelt School and Cherry Hill School is and can out of district students be relocated? Ms. Bletel heard that the moving line is from Madison to Monroe. Ms. Bletel’s questions were answered.

**Lauren Thiffault** (159 Greenway Terrace): Ms. Thiffault commented on the regionalization; what NBC was built for; how the move will impact parents, children and teachers and if this move will only impact the Roosevelt side. Ms. Thiffault’s concerns were addressed.

**Kristen Apa** (174 Voorhiis Avenue): Ms. Apa commented that she is in huge favor of ZOOM meetings. Ms. Apa also commented that is nice to see teachers involved as well and hopefully the Board decides to keep it.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to convene into closed session at 10:25PM

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

#### **RECONVENE**

Motion made by Mr. Sim, seconded by Mr. Herbst to reconvene and adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:56PM.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Dansky

#### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

May 18, 2022 – Student Led Board of Education Meeting

June 1, 2022 -- Retirees and Discussion of Demographic Study

June 22, 2022