

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – January 7, 2015 – 7:30 PM

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.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Salvati called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

REORGANIZATION

1. Certification of Election Results – November 4, 2014

Ms. Salvati read the official results of the School Election held November 4, 2014.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Total Votes Cast</u>
Sheli Dansky (3 Year Term)	1,312
Cathy Danahy (3 Year Term)	31 (write-In)

2. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

The Board Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Trustees elect Sheli Dansky and Cathy Danahy.

2015 Board of Education and Expiration of Terms of Offices

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Expiration of Terms</u>
Colin Busteed	2015
Wendy Walker	2015
Gyuchang Sim	2015
Paris Myers	2016
Anthony DiBella	2016
Sheli Dansky	2017
Cathy Danahy	2017

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mr. Busteed; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mr. DiBella; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; Ms. Walker; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati; Ms. Rosen and one member of the public.

Nomination and Election of President

Motion by Ms. Dansky, seconded by Mr. Busted to nominate Paris Myers as Board President.

Roll call was taken and Paris Maris was unanimously elected Board President.

Nomination and Election of Vice-President

Motion by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Busted to nominate Sheli Dansky as Vice-President.

Roll call was taken and Sheli Dansky was unanimously elected Vice-President.

President, Paris Myers assumed the Chair.

Meeting Time & Location

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

That the Board of Education continues to hold regular public meetings at 7:30 p.m. as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
January 7, 2015	Roosevelt School
January 21, 2015	Cherry Hill School
February 4, 2015	Roosevelt School
February 18, 2015	Cherry Hill School
March 3, 2015 (Tues)	Roosevelt School
March 18, 2015	Cherry Hill School (Adoption of Tentative Budget)
April 1, 2015	Roosevelt School
April 22, 2015	Cherry Hill School
May 6, 2015	Roosevelt School (Public Hearing on the Budget)
May 20, 2015	Cherry Hill School
June 10, 2015	Roosevelt School
June 24, 2015	Cherry Hill School
July 29, 2015	Cherry Hill School
September 2, 2015	Roosevelt School
September 16, 2015	Cherry Hill School
October 7, 2015	Roosevelt School
October 21, 2015	Cherry Hill School
November 11, 2015	Roosevelt School
November 18, 2015	Cherry Hill School
December 2, 2015	Roosevelt School
December 16, 2015	Cherry Hill School

FURTHER, provision is also made for closed meetings immediately following each regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel matters or any other private matters if necessary.

FURTHER, the Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to give at least 48 hours advance notice of all the aforesaid meetings, and said notice shall (a) be delivered to the municipal building and the post office; (b) be delivered to the Board's officially designated newspapers; (c) circulated in the School District; and (d) filed with the clerk of the Borough of River Edge, all as provided for the pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of the State of New Jersey 1975.

School Ethics

FURTHER, that the Board of Education abide by the School Ethics Act and the Code of Ethics for School Board Members, pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:12-21 et seq.

Parliament Procedure

FURTHER, that the Board of Education meetings be governed by parliamentary procedure of Robert's Rules of Order.

Official Public Notice Newspapers

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the *Suburban/Town News* and *The Record* as the Official Newspapers for the Board of Education until the next organization meeting.

Designation Board Secretary

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Patricia Salvati as Board Secretary until the next organization meeting.

Rules, Regulations and Policies

FURTHER, that all rules, regulations and policies adopted in previous years, and not rescinded by the River Edge Board of Education be continued in full force and effect until altered, amended, modified or repealed by other resolutions of this Board.

Curricula

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve all current curriculum guides that have been developed in accordance with NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards until the next organization meeting.

Mission Statement

FURTHER, that the Board of Education adapt the Mission Statement as follows:

The River Edge School District is a partnership of students, parents, staff, and community members. We are dedicated to providing a supportive environment in which all students can reach their maximum academic potential, while developing as responsible citizens who respect individuality. Our goals will be achieved because:

- curriculum and instruction are aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards
- all decisions reflect the academic, social/emotional and physical needs of pre-K to sixth grade students

- cooperation and on-going communication exist between the school district and the community
- school administrators and the Board of Education work together to assess and adjust procedures in response to new mandates and the changing needs of the community

Designation of Depositories & Signature Authorizations

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate the Capital One Bank as the depository for funds for the Board of Education.

FURTHER, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Treasurer of School Monies be authorized and directed to maintain accounts for and on behalf of the Board in Capital One Bank and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education official warrants be signed by three of the following five:

President, Vice President, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Treasurer of School Monies, Superintendent of Schools

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approves the designated signatures on the above accounts as outlined in the attached document.

Participation in Bergen County Banking Consortium

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the district's participation in the Bergen County Banking Consortium (BCBANC) and authorize the School Business Administrator to serve as a trustee until the next organization meeting.

Signature Authorization – Taxes, Payroll, Insurance

FURTHER, that the President or Vice President in his/her absence, and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator or Superintendent in his/her absence, and the Treasurer of School Monies, be authorized and directed to execute warrants without further action on the part of the Board of the payment, when due, for salaries of all employees of the Board and for withholding taxes, pension funds, medical insurance plans, property insurance, Social Security and New Jersey Unemployment Insurance.

Office Account Signatures

FURTHER, that the Board of Education authorize the following individuals to approve the Petty Cash Reimbursements:

- Patricia Salvati, Board Secretary/Business Administrator
- Dr. Tova Ben-Dov, Superintendent of Schools

FURTHER, that the maximum allowable amount per warrant be established at \$125.00 providing all necessary claims are found to be in order according to law.

Designation of Board Auditor, and

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Gary Higgins, Lerch Vinci & Higgins, as Board Auditor until the next organization meeting.

Designation Board Attorney

WHEREAS, the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the River Edge Board of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs, to provide professional services to the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education appoints the law firm of Fogarty & Hara, Esqs., as the Board Attorney until the next organization meeting at the following rates: \$165.00 Partner and \$145.00 Associate.

Designation Board Architect

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate DiCara Rubino Architects, as Architect of Record until the next organization meeting at an hourly rate of \$175 Principal, \$165 Senior Associate Architect, and \$140 Project Architect/Engineer.

Designation Board Insurance Agency

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Brown and Brown Advisors of Lambertville, New Jersey as the Broker of Record for Dental Benefits.

Designation School District Consulting Physician

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Dr. Urian Kim as Board School Physician until the next organization meeting.

Public Agency Compliance Officer

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Patricia Salvati as Public Agency Compliance Officer until the next organization meeting.

Officer of Public Records

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Patricia Salvati as Officer of Public Records until the next organization meeting.

Designation 504 Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Tara Benevento as 504 Coordinator until the next organization meeting.

Designation Attendance Officer

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Denise Heitman, Attendance Officer, for a yearly stipend of \$500.00 until the next organization meeting.

Designation Homeless Student Liaison

FURTHER, that the Board of Education approve Beth Rosen, Homeless Student Liaison, for the River Edge School District until the next organization meeting.

Designation District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Beth Rosen, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, until the next organization meeting.

Designation Treasurer of School Funds

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Antoinette Kelly as Treasurer of School funds until the next organization meeting.

Tri-District Interlocal Agreement

FURTHER, that the Board of Education renew the Interlocal Agreement with the River Dell School District for the coordination of curriculum services between River Dell, Oradell, and River Edge School Districts until the next organization meeting.

Designate Purchasing Agent

WHEREAS, the recent changes to the Public School Contracts Law gave Boards of Education the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$36,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3A, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold: and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Salvati possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.: and

WHEREAS, River Edge Board of Education desires to increase the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the River Edge Board of Education in the County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey hereby increases its bid threshold to \$36,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Patricia Salvati as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the N.J.A.C. 5:34-5.2 the Board of Education Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and a copy of Patricia Salvati's certification to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Move to authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to seek sealed bids, Educational Data Services, county contract, and/or state contract for all goods and services until the next organizational meeting.

AHERA Coordinator

FURTHER, that the Board of Education designate Environmental Design, Inc. to become the designated party to ensure compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) until the next organization meeting.

Membership in Bergen County Region V

FURTHER, that the Board of Education continue its membership in the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education, does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the

Region V by-laws; designates the District Superintendent as its representative to Region V; and empowers her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interest in Region V; until the next organization meeting and

FURTHER, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V.

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

Abstained: Ms. Danahy

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

2015-2016 School Calendar Discussion

Dr. Ben-Dov proposed a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar to the Board members. A discussion took place regarding Professional Development days.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- All families have been addressed and are in compliance regarding re-registration. Upon reviewing the paperwork, four families will need to be followed-up.
- A few teachers have returned from maternity leave and we have a few more teachers who are out on leave now. In April and May the district will have another round of maternity leaves. On tonight's agenda we also have a motion to approve a Behaviorist Leave Replacement. Dr. Ben-Dov is in the process of interviewing for an Instructional Technology Coach. There are two retirements on tonight's agenda John Corcoran and Carolyn Brush.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the board an update regarding PARCC. On Monday, there was a meeting and the goal was to create a schedule for PARCC testing. It was important for us to conduct all testing in the morning. We have roughly three weeks to accomplish all testing and schedule make-up tests. The students must take the test between March 2 and March 27th. Fifth and Sixth grade students will take the test the week of March 2nd, fourth grade will take it the week of March 9th, and third grade will take it the week of March 16th. We will do make-up testing as we go along, but remaining make-up tests will be during the last week. The need to decide on accessibility features and accommodations was also discussed.
- Dr. Ben-Dov gave the board members the status of our current kindergarten enrollment. We started the school year with 168 students and we currently have 170 students. Next year we will need nine 1st grade classes. She scheduled a Building and Grounds meeting on January 26th to discuss the implications of enrollment on our space challenges. We hope to make recommendations to the Board in the near future.
- Dr. Ben-Dov read the Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying report: As reported to the state, our reporting period 1 (September 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014) indicates no HIB incidents.

- Cherry Hill School will be part of the mayor's book club to promote literacy for first graders. We will have a kickoff event with Fairleigh Dickinson University on Monday. Students will earn \$1,000 for the school for every 1,000 books read.
- We have placed mechanical owls on the Courtside at Roosevelt School due to the pigeon problem.

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Rosen reported on the following:

- On Tuesday, January 6th there was a committee meeting for International Day that will be held on Thursday, February 5th in Cherry Hill School.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati thanked the custodians for their hard work with cleaning and sanitizing the schools over the Holiday Recess.
- At the January 21st Board Meeting there will be a discussion on next year's budget without a presentation of the numbers. Mrs. Heitman will discuss technology needs for the budget and John Lyons will discuss Capital Projects.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers thanked the board members for re-electing her as the River Edge Board President.
- Mrs. Myers spoke to the Board about the 2015-2016 Board Committee Assignments.
- Mrs. Myers would like Mr. Alfred Annunziata to come to an upcoming meeting for Ethics Training.

COMMITTEES

No committees reported at this meeting

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

Motion by Mr. Busted
 Seconded by Mr. DiBella

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

School	Fire Drills	Security Drills
Cherry Hill School	December 1, 2014 December 17, 2014	
Roosevelt School	December 18,2014	December 22, 2014

2. That the Board of Education approve the Violence, Vandalism and Harassment Intimidation and Bullying Report and HIB Training Report for Reporting Period 1 (September 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014).

Ayes: Mr. Busteded, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

1. That the Board of Education accept a donation from Craig and Andrea Horowitz in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be used for the River Edge Building Bridges program.
2. That the Board of Education accept the list of donations in memory of Erika Steinbauer for the Building Bridges Program in the amount of \$25.00. (List is on file in the Board Office)

Ayes: Mr. Busteded, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Walker

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Valerie Gancarz-Demarco, Behaviorist Leave Replacement effective on or about February 18, 2015 to June 30, 2015, MA + 30.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Disability leave of absence for Rita Scoccola to commence on January 5, 2015 through a date to be determined by medical guidance.

Ayes: Mr. Busteded, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

3. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of John Corcoran, Science Teacher, effective July 1, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Busteded, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Mr. Sim

4. That the Board of Education accept with regret, the retirement of Carolyn Brush, Teacher, effective July 1, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Mr. Busteed

5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Donna Schwartz, Part-time Aide, effective December 12, 2014.
6. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Jessica Accardi, Full-time Aide, effective January 16, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Busteed, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

Motion by Mr. Busteed
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

7. That the Board of Education approve Cindy Femia, as Full-time Secretary to the Business Administrator, effective January 12, 2015 at a salary on file in the Board Office.

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: Mr. Busteed
Abstained: Ms. Danahy

RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

1. That the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region V (Host) and Neptune Township B.O.E. (Joiner).
2. That the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Northern Valley Region III (Host) and Region V (Joiner).
3. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract for Mayor Transportation.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q196	West Bergen Mental Health	\$175.00

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract for Mayor Transportation.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q182	Camp Sunshine	\$160.00 (with aide)

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board Members read the Code of Ethics

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 8:55 PM made by Ms. Walker and seconded by Mr. DiBella.

Meeting returned to Public Session at 9:22 PM.

Ayes: Mr. Busted, Ms. Danahy, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:23 PM made by Mr. Busted and seconded by Mr. DiBella.

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator