

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 18, 2015

7:30 PM Public Meeting

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Multi-Purpose Room, Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mr. Busted; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mrs. Myers; Ms. Walker. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman, Mrs. Rosen, Ms. Kossoy and approximately one hundred sixty members of the public.

Mr. DiBella arrived at 7:35 PM
Mr. Sim was absent.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Informational Session on Enrollment and Facilities Plan for 2015-2016 – Dr. Ben-Dov

Dr. Ben-Dov gave some background information on the campuses of Cherry Hill, New Bridge Center, Roosevelt School and the enrollment increase the district is facing. She explained we had a demographer perform an enrollment projection, completed a re-registration of our students and had our district architect review our building utilization maps. She explained some of the long-term options they were considering, but the district has decided on a short-term solution which is to have next year's Kindergarteners report to their home schools. Parents had many questions regarding kindergarten orientation, the financial impact on the district, lunch schedules, classroom sizes and locations, long and short term solutions. A parent thanked the Board of Education for the additional fifth grade class at Cherry Hill School in the upcoming school year. Administrators and Board Members answered all of the questions that were asked.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- PARCC is in its last week of testing. After this week a few make-up tests will need to be taken. Dr. Ben-Dov asked teachers for their feedback on PARCC and the feedback she received was: Technology was not lacking, more work on content is needed, and we need greater clarity of our expectations.
- Next year is a QSAC year for the River Edge School District. The state is addressing QSAC differently. Districts that had high scores on the Statement of Assurance do not need to get a visit from the state. Interdisciplinary Curriculum has to be approved by the Board of Education before September. The curriculum requirement for QSAC is for Boards to modify and adopt most areas of the curriculum after July 2014. Dr. Ben-Dov is working with Mr. Feldman and the supervisors and she will bring it to the board for approval once it is completed.
- Dr. Ben-Dov is interviewing to complete the filling of all maternity leave positions for this school year. She has also began interviews and setting up demos for next year's positions that need to be filled.
- R.E.A.C.H winter edition will come out at the end of March.
- Teacher of the Year Committee will meet on April 1st in the Cherry Hill School Library.

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Kossoy reported on the following:

- All three schools have been busy and full of activities.
- In Roosevelt and Cherry Hill Schools our students have been busy participating in March Mathness. These are weekly contests for grades 1-3 and 4-6.
- The children are doing a great job announcing and creating historical math facts in both schools.
- The weather has been nice enough for all students to enjoy outdoor recess.
- Administrators, teachers, and parents are still continuing to read to the students for Read Across America.
- The Leprechauns came to visit all Kindergarten classrooms. They left gold coins and homework passes for all students.
- We are in the final week of PARCC and everything is going well.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati had a meeting at the Borough Hall on Monday, March 16th to discuss the grant for Safe Routes to School.
- Ms. Salvati stated the Board will be voting on the tentative budget tonight. The submission of the tentative budget is due to the County by Friday.
- The Public Hearing on the budget will be on May 6th.

- Ms. Salvati reported about the details of the budget and the need to go above the 2% tax levy cap. Driving our budget is the surge in enrollment, especially in Kindergarten. The budget includes the addition of two classroom teachers to accommodate the additional students and the additional furniture and supplies needed. The State granted the district an enrollment growth adjustment to the tax levy to provide for the additional students.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mr. Alfred Annunziata will attend the April 1st board meeting for Ethics Training.
- The 6th grade Board of Education Meeting will take place at the May 22nd meeting.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky stated there will be a Bergen County School Board Meeting on March 24th at New Milford High School and a meeting for Bergen County School Boards Presidents' on Saturday, March 28th at Roosevelt School. Ms. Dansky spoke about the Personnel and Management Committee Meeting that was held on March 11th.
- Ms. Walker spoke about the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting that was held on March 11th. They discussed the changes to the Special Education Policies and curriculum in the meeting.
- Ms. Danahy spoke about the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting on March 11th. They spoke about the 2015-2016 budget and tax levy.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of February 18, 2015.

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Walker

2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for March 2015 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

3. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
4/23/15	Cherry Hill	2	Tenafly Nature Center Tenafly, NJ	\$960.00
5/19/15	Cherry Hill	1	Turtle Back Zoo West Orange, NJ	\$1,055.00
6/4/15	Cherry Hill Roosevelt	4,5,6 Music	Mahwah High School Mahwah, NJ	\$65.00
6/5/15	Cherry Hill	4	West Point Highlands Falls, NY	\$570.00

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

Policy #	Title
5120	Assessment of Individual Needs
6171.4	Special Education
6171.4/Regulation	Special Education Evaluations

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

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

5. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes, as amended, and Confidential Minutes March 3, 2015.

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

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

BUILDING & GROUNDS – None

FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2015 totaling \$741,663.86 including checks #37119 through #37207. Payrolls dated February 13, 2015 and February 27, 2015, totaling \$1,068,268.56 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)

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

Motion by Ms. Danahy
Seconded by Mr. Busted

2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2014-2015 as of January 31, 2015. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2015.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2015 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been overexpended 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)

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

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

4. That the Board of Education approve the tentative 2015-2016 school budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent in the amount of \$16,245,785 for the General Fund, \$1,032,244 for the Special Revenue Fund, and \$1,412,478 for Debt Service.

Further, that the Board of Education authorize \$14,309,661 as General Fund Tax Levy and \$1,200,950 as Debt Service Tax Levy.

Be it resolved, that the Board of Education has been approved by the Department of Education for an adjustment to the base tax levy due to an increase in student enrollment. The District intends to use \$181,900 of this adjustment in 2015-2016 to hire staff and provide necessary supplies and materials.

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education has the ability to use an allowable health care adjustment in the amount of \$118,333 but has elected to not use it at this time.

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Walker

5. That the Board of Education accept the Cherry Hill School PTO Gifts for the school year 2014-2015. (Addendum)

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

PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Julie Bernhard, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about March 26, 2015 through June 30, 2015, MA, Step 3.
2. That the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Caroline Church, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective March 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015, BA, Step 1-2.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve April Kaiser, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about May 4, 2015 through June 30, 2015, BA, Step 1-2.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as Substitute Teacher for the 2014-2015 School Year.

Julie Bernhard
Melissa Dobroshi
April Kaiser
Nanette Riabov

5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Nanette Riabov, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about April 13, 2015 through June 30, 2015, BA, Step 4.
6. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Edward MacDonald, Transportation Coordinator, effective March 20, 2015.

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

RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2015 totaling \$652,947.72 including checks #63897 through #64043.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contract for Galaxia Express.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2080	TCI High School	\$164.00 (w/aide)

3. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract with Alpha Care.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q202	Columbia University, NY	\$160.00

4. BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE REGION V COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION WILL PROVIDE SHARED SERVICES FOR ITS MEMBER DISTRICTS AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION, upon recommendation of the Superintendent,, approves the following Region V Shared Services Consultants, Psychologists, Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants, Social Workers, Speech Language Specialists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Translators to provide evaluations, direct services and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2014-2015 school year.

Marie Luce Sajous	ESL Teacher
Ellen Gruber	Speech and Language Specialist

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DiBella suggested to the Board Members to have committee meetings run 45 minutes rather than 30 minutes. The Board will discuss his request.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There were several questions asked by parents regarding the enrollment and facilities plan for the 2015-2016 school year. Administrators and Board Members answered all of the questions that were asked.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to convene the Closed Session for the purpose of personnel and contractual matters at 9:20 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Mr. Busteed

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:55 PM made by Mr. Busteed and seconded by Mr. DiBella

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:55 PM made by Mr. Busteed and seconded by Ms. Walker

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

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator