

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

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 3, 2015**

**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.

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

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

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Danahy read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; Ms. Walker also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, and approximately three members of the public.

Mr. Busted arrived at 7:50 PM  
Mr. DiBella arrived at 8:15 PM

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION** - None

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Facilities Discussion – Dr. Ben-Dov

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the increased enrollment in Cherry Hill School, possible future developments in town, and what our options were. These discussions had been taking place with administrators, architects, and the committee of Building and Grounds throughout the year. The board discussed the pros and cons of re-districting for grade reconfiguration (k-3 and 4-6) and agreed to explore it more thoroughly for the long term. The consensus for a short-term solution was for the incoming Roosevelt Kindergarten Students to attend their home school and free up space for the growth at Cherry Hill School. Due to the enrollment of the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in both buildings there was also a decision to open an additional 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Cherry Hill School and invite 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Roosevelt School to join. The Board had many questions regarding this topic and Dr. Ben-Dov answered them.

Discussion of the Preliminary 2015-2016 Budget – Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Salvati

Ms. Salvati and Dr. Ben-Dov presented the revised 2015-2016 school year budget following the release of the state aid amounts that were announced on February 26, 2015. They also explained all the items that have been cut since the last presentation. While state aid was flat this year, it does not keep pace with the rising expenses. Ms. Salvati and Dr. Ben-Dov answered any questions the board had on their presentation.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated the District managed to have a full day of school on Monday and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders started PARCC testing that day. There were no technical difficulties to report with Chrome books. Dr. Ben-Dov thanked Mr. Tee, Mrs. Heitman and the rest of the staff for being so well prepared for this test.
- Dr. Ben-Dov spoke to 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Cherry Hill School yesterday and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Roosevelt School today and asked them to rate the test in terms of difficulty using the numbers 1-10. Their responses were around the middle and up to eight.
- Principals are interviewing candidates for the many replacement positions needed for this Spring and the administrators are observing demo lessons. Dr. Ben-Dov intends to have everyone in place before the April Maternity leaves begin.
- Erika Steinbauer's memorial gift is ready. We are waiting for the plaque to be ready. She is hoping to share it with the Board at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- Dr. Ben-Dov attended the National AASA Conference on February 26<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup>. She attended some interesting workshops on Digital Instruction for World Language and Intervention, School/Board Superintendent Relationships and Functioning, the Value of Twitter, Professional Development Online, The Role of School Leaders, National Superintendents Certificate, and many discussions on PARCC.
- Governor Chris Christie will speak at the Town Hall in Fair Lawn on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati plan on attending.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported for Mrs. Rosen on the following:

- Primary colors are the theme for Art this month. Many students are wearing primary colored t-shirts to school.
- March is the month of Math Madness. Students are participating in Pi Day.
- Read Across America is being celebrated this week. Cherry Hill and New Bridge Center celebrated all week with Dr. Seuss. The students participated with crazy hat day, crazy sock day, mismatch day, green snack day, and sports shirt day.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati has started discussions with the River Edge Borough in regards to replacing the temporary steps behind Cherry Hill School on June Court.

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers stated there will be a Committee Meeting Night on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 PM.
- Mr. Alfred Annunziata will attend the April 1<sup>st</sup> board 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 Minutes and Confidential Minutes February 4, 2015.
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 completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	February 11, 2015 Lockdown February 12, 2015 Fire Drill
Roosevelt School	February 11, 2015 Fire Drill February 27, 2015 Lockdown

**CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** - None

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** - None

**FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

1. That the Board of Education authorize the contract with Educational Data Services for services in connection with the cooperative bidding for supplies and other categories as mutually agreed upon for the 2015-2016 school year at a fee of \$3040.00. (Addendum)

**PERSONNEL**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Lori Rosner, Speech/Language Specialist Teacher, effective July 1, 2015.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following as Substitute Nurse for the 2014-2015 School Year.

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for one day a week for practicum experience to start on or about March 4, 2015 to May 29, 2015.

Anjelica Frances Barone

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following for Student Fieldwork to consist of observation for a maximum of 35 hours to commence on or about March 4, 2015 through May 29, 2015.

Ashlie Brown-McMenam

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Melissa Dobroshi, Leave Replacement Teacher, effective on or about April 20, 2015, BA+30, Step 1-2.

**RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION** – None

**REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

- That the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region V (Host) and Watchung Hills Reg. H.S. B.O.E. (Joiner).
- That the Board of Education approve the following Bid results from the February 11, 2015 Bid.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2078	Soliman Trans.	\$160.00
2079	Soliman Trans.	\$160.00 (w/aide)
2080	Galaxia Express	\$166.00 (w/aide)
2081	Ace Trans.	\$166.00 (w/aide)
2082	Pro Trans.	\$185.00 (w/aide)
2083	Calais	\$212.00 (w/aide)
2084	EZ Ride	\$170.00 (w/aide)
2087	Glorious Trans.	\$168.00 (w/aide)

- That the Board of Education approve the following Renewal Contract for Ace Transportation.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
1924	Cornerstone Day School	\$147.81
1928	Building Bridges @ Cherry Hill	\$132.41 (w/aide)
1929	SB Lodi/Robert Craig	\$153.60 (w/aide)
1995	Alpine Learning Center	\$159.08 (w/aide)

4. That the Board of Education approve the 2015-2016 Jointure Transportation Agreement between Region I (Host) and Region V (Joiner).

**5. 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.

Soliman Transportation LLC	Transporter
Galaxia Express LLC	Transporter

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

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Janine Byrne, River Edge Parent, discussed the Facilities Use Policy. Dr. Ben-Dov and Mrs. Salvati answered her questions.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 10:35 PM made by Mr. DiBella and seconded by Ms. Dansky

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 10:50 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Ms. Danahy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:51 PM made by Ms. Danahy and seconded by Mr. Busted

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator