

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – April 22, 2015 - 7:30 PM

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey met in the Media Center, 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

Ms. Danahy read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mr. Busteed; Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mr. DiBella; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; and Ms. Walker. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, and Mrs. Heitman and four members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public comment on Agenda Items

Christine O' Keefe asked the board if the Roosevelt Staff can be included in hiring the new Roosevelt Principal. Ms. Dansky answered her question.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- This is a great time of year. Many events are taking place. The district has been enjoying many Author Celebrations, Google Presentations, Spring Concerts, Arbor Day Celebrations, International Day, and a Wax Museum. The second part of PARCC testing, the end of year PARCC, will take place the first week of May.
- A Eureka Math Representative came and presented to Dr. Ben-Dov, River Edge and Oradell teachers, and administrators a new math curriculum resource. They are trying to identify math resources for Bi-Borough.
- Mr. Bill Feldman, Tri-District Curriculum Supervisor, is tying up all loose ends and integrating 21st century skills and technology and embedding it in the curriculum. This needs to be done by September 2015.

- About 100 resumes have come in for the Bi-Borough Curriculum Supervisor position and Dr. Ben-Dov and Mr. Wilson are in the process of reviewing them.
- Dr. Ben-Dov is working with the Principals on the 2015 – 2016 staffing needs. Dr. Ben-Dov stated the district had some great leave replacement teachers to use for next school year.
- There are many community events and meetings to report on. On April 18th the River Edge Run Fun took place. Twenty five River Edge teachers were present! Dr. Ben-Dov thanked the teachers that helped with the run. There was a meeting with representation of the Mayor and Council on Monday April 20th regarding Cherry Blossom Park. The River Edge Korean Network met on April 16th and Dr. Ben-Dov attended the meeting and responded to questions. Dr. Ben-Dov held her 2nd Cup of Coffee Monday evening. DEAC committee met on April 21st. Dr. Ben-Dov is planning one more Literacy Night for grades 3-6 sometime in May.

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Heitman reported on the following:

- Mrs. Heitman congratulated the 2014-2015 Teachers of the Year. Cherry Hill's Teacher of the Year is Kaitlyn Burke, Roosevelt's Teacher of the Year is Julie Fallon, and Ashley Gargiulo for New Bridge Center.
- NBC had a Penguin Assembly on Wednesday, April 1st. The kids had a blast and enjoyed learning about the penguins.
- Kindergarten and first grade students had chrome book lessons in their classrooms. The students did very well with it and enjoyed the hands on experience.
- Kindergarten Orientation is will be next month. Cherry Hill will have orientation on Wednesday, May 6th and Roosevelt will have it on Thursday, May 7th.
- Roosevelt's Spring Concert was held on Tuesday, April 21st and it was an excellent concert. Cherry Hill will have their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 23rd.
- Roosevelt and Cherry Hill's Art Show will be on Wednesday, April 29th.
- Mrs. Myers came into speak to the 6th graders regarding the 6th Grade Board of Education Meeting that will take place on May 20th.
- Mrs. Rosen attended at Cyber Safety Workshop on Internet Safety for Parents. It was held on Tuesday, April 14th at the River Dell School.
- Arbor Day Celebrations will take place on Friday April 24th at both schools.
- The River Edge Mayor came in last week to read to our 1st grade students for the Mayor's Book Club.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- The Library entry on Discovery Road will be the new entrance/exist for board meetings at the Cherry Hill School. Board Members will get swipe card to enter both buildings.
- The budget has been approved by the County Superintendent. There will be a public notice published in the Bergen Record on Thursday.
- The Public Hearing on the Budget will be at the May 6th Board Meeting.

- The engineer came and looked at the steps to the old gym at Roosevelt School and believes they are structurally sound. Recommendations will come from the architect and Ms. Salvati will report back to the board members when she receives it.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers spoke to the 6th graders at Cherry Hill School and at Roosevelt School regarding the Student Board Meeting on May 20th.
- The River Edge Shade and Tree Commission invited the Board members to attend Arbor Day Celebrations on Friday, April 24th.
- The River Edge Recreation Commission invited the Board members to march in the town's 4th of July Parade.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Dansky spoke about the Personnel Committee Meeting that took place before the Board Meeting. They discussed the number of applicants for the Bi-Borough Curriculum Supervisor opening and staffing for the 2015 – 2016 school year.
- Ms. Walker spoke about the Technology Committee Meeting that took place before the Board Meeting. They spoke about technology budget and laptops for the teachers.

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 March 18, 2015.

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella
 Seconded by Mr. Sim

2. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of April 1, 2015.

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

Motion by Mr. Sim
 Seconded by Ms. Walker

3. That the Board of Education establish the tuition rates per pupil for the 2015-2016 school year:

Regular Education	\$12,160.00
Building Bridges Autistic Programs	\$63,519.00
Building Bridges Multiply Disabled Program	\$52,601.00

4. That the Board of Education approve the staff development and travel as per the schedules for April 2015 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
5. BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation Number 2015-1 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.
6. BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") hereby affirms the Superintendent's decision in HIB Investigation Number 2015-2 for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents forthwith.

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

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

7. **WHEREAS**, the health of New Jersey's public employee retirement systems affects the state's economy and its citizens' quality of life, and impacts critical functions, ranging from the state's ability to borrow to finance public works projects to its annual budget including state aid to education and, consequently, the operation of the public schools; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Study Commission, appointed by Governor Chris Christie in 2014, has issued its final report, "A Roadmap to Resolution," which proposes monumental changes in how public employee benefits, particularly the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP), are financed and administered; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education believes that reform must balance the health of the state's retiree benefits programs with local school boards' responsibility to provide sound educational programming; and

WHEREAS, TPAF benefits are established by the state and not through local school board action; and

WHEREAS, post-retirement medical benefits are provided to TPAF retirees through state legislation, not local school board action; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education believes that the TPAF and any new retirement program for certificated school district staff must be funded by the state government; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education believes that transferring payment of the employer's contribution to the teacher retirement plan and post-retirement medical benefits from the state to local school districts would have a detrimental impact on the resources necessary to maintain educational programming; and

WHEREAS, to restore solvency to, and avert future default of, the state's retirement programs, the pension and benefits reform act of 2011 (*P.L.* 2011, *c.*78) includes a schedule of annual state payments designed to close the deficit of the plans that serve school district employees; and

WHEREAS, medical benefits for retired school employees, which will total over \$1 billion in 2015-2016, are a major cost-driver in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education supports the current statutorily required employee contributions toward health benefits, which reflect current practice in the private sector and in public employment in other states, and have provided significant financial relief for local school districts, thereby enabling them to direct resources toward educational programming, including teacher employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the River Edge Board of Education urges the state Legislature and Governor to ensure that the employers' cost for teacher pensions and post-retirement medical benefits-financial obligations created by the state-are not transferred to local school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide local school districts and local property taxpayers with financial relief, the Legislature should amend *P.L. 2011, c.78* to make the current employee contributions toward health coverage a permanent requirement and not a subject of labor negotiations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that to provide further control over the cost of health benefits, the Legislature should give local boards of education unilateral authority to enroll in the School Employee Health Benefits Program if the board determines that such action would generate financial savings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education supports the goal of reducing the overall costs of public employee health and retirement benefits and urges the state Legislature and Governor to take a studied and comprehensive approach that will ensure the long-term solvency of the state's public employee retirement programs without unduly burdening local school district budgets and endangering educational programming; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto; and the 38th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

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

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

8. That the River Edge Board of Education approve a request to be sent to the New Jersey Department of Education for a waiver to allow the district to reduce the number of required observations of tenured staff from three to two for the 2015-2016 school year.
9. That the Board of Education approve the following class trip:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
4/30/15	New Bridge Center	Pre-k3 Pre-k4	Bowler City Hackensack, NJ	\$0
5/19/15	Cherry Hill	6	Museum of Natural History New York, NY	\$1,368.00

5/26/15	Roosevelt	6	Museum of Natural History New York, NY	\$1,008.00
6/9/15	Cherry Hill	5	Hayden Planetarium/ Museum of Natural History New York, NY	\$1,612.00

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

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION -None

BUILDING & GROUNDS – None

FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Mr. Busted

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2015 totaling \$491,906.23 including checks #37208 through #37298. Payrolls dated March 13, 2015 and March 31, 2015, totaling \$1,071,063.87, issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)

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

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

2. That the Board of Education approve the Budget Transfers for the school year 2014-2015 as of February 28, 2015. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending February 28, 2015.

Further, we certify that as of February 28, 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, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker
Nays: None

PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Mr. Sim

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Marisa Kossoy, Roosevelt School Principal, effective June 30, 2015.

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

Motion by Mr. Sim
Seconded by Ms. Walker

2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Yvonne Bell, Part-time Clerical Aide, effective May 18, 2015.

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

RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated April 2015 totaling \$860,091.89 including checks #64044 through #64198 .
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract with 4 Diamond Transportation.

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q204	Bryan/Merritt	\$230.00 (w/aide)

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky stated there will be a Second Chance Toys Collection and a free paper shredding Saturday, April 25th at the Cherry Hill School parking lot. She also stated there will be a Bergen County School Boards Meeting on Tuesday, May 5th at Maggiano’s Restaurant in Hackensack.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 8:40 PM made by Mr. Busteded and seconded by Ms. Walker

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:30 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Ms. Walker

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:30 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Ms. Walker

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

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator