

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

"Building Bright Futures Together"

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 6, 2015 – 6:30 PM

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 6:30 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Ms. Danahy; Ms. Dansky; Mr. DiBella; Mrs. Myers; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Heitman, Ms. Kossoy, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Kuruc and approximately seventy members of the public.

Mr. Sim was absent

Mr. Busted arrived at 7:15 PM

Ms. Walker left at 7:30 PM and returned at 8:05 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Ms. Dansky

That the Board of Education convene into closed session at 6:30 PM for the review of non-tenured personnel.

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

Nays: None

RECONVENE

Motion by Ms. Danahy

Seconded by Mr. Busted

That the Board of Education reconvene the regular public meeting at 7:30 PM.

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

Nays: None

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comments on Agenda Items-None

Honor Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to: Kaitlyn Burke - Cherry Hill School
Julie Fallon - Roosevelt School
Ashley Gargiulo – New Bridge Center

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed everyone to our Teacher of the Year ceremony. She stated this is one of the best evenings of the year. It is a pleasant and an exciting event. She explained the process through which the teachers are selected for this achievement. She congratulated the three Teachers of the Year and had each of them come up to accept the honor.

Mrs. Heitman, Ms. Kossoy, Ms. Rosen, and Mrs. Kuruc congratulated each of the Teachers they supervised on the honor of being named Teacher of the Year and spoke about each teacher's contributions to the district. The Board of Education presented flowers, a Golden Apple, and a certificate to each teacher. In addition, the PTOs, students, and the REEA presented the Teachers with flowers and a Gift Card. The teachers thanked everyone and commented on their teaching experience in River Edge.

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

That the Board of Education authorize \$500.00 each to Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School, and New Bridge Center for the Teacher Recognition Award for the 2014-2015 school year, to be spent at the discretion of each Teacher of the Year for the benefit of the school.

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

Nays: None

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Kindergarten Orientation for Cherry Hill students was held today and Kindergarten Orientation for Roosevelt students will be held tomorrow.
- PARCC two testing began on Tuesday for fifth and sixth graders. Fourth grade will test next week and third grade will begin in the middle of next week and end on May 18th.
- Dr. Ben-Dov and Mr. Wilson have been involved in the first round of interviews for the Bi-Borough Curriculum Supervisor position. They may extend the deadline for this position so that additional quality candidates might be considered.
- As part of Parent Academy, Literacy Night for grades 3-6 will be held on Tuesday, May 26th.
- A Technology Meeting was held today in the Cherry Hill School Library at 3:10 PM. Discussed were teacher devices and the various options that were considered. They also discussed that the district needs to update our Acceptable Use Policy.
- There will be a meeting with the town to update our Emergency Plan. Mr. Tom Smith will be organizing the meeting and it is expected to take place on May 21st. The two chiefs and the administrators of the River Edge School District will attend this meeting.

- There will be an added Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 19th. At this meeting there will be a math resource presentation for the board members called Go Math! This will also be open to the public.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated there are some enrollment developments with Kindergarten in Roosevelt School. Kindergarten may need four classrooms for the 2015 – 2016 school year. Dr. Ben-Dov is working on plans to reconfigure the space of the building if this actually happens.

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Kossoy reported on the following:

- PARCC testing is going very well.
- Ms. Kossoy thanked Cherry Hill's and Roosevelt's Art Teachers for a great job with presenting the students art work at the Art Shows.
- Kindergarten Orientation for Cherry Hill School was today and Roosevelt's will be tomorrow.
- The second grade Roosevelt play will be at 2:15 PM tomorrow.
- The Third grade Recorder Concert will be on May 20th for Cherry Hill School and May 21st for Roosevelt School.
- Walk for Uniqueness will be on Friday, May 22nd for both schools.
- REEF presents the Harlem Wizards at River Dell High School on Saturday, May 16th at 7:00 PM.
- Ms. Kossoy thanked both PTO's for the delicious Mexican Fiesta luncheon that celebrated Teacher Appreciation week.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- We received the engineers report regarding the steps at Roosevelt School. The platform and steps need to be replaced. Since the preliminary cost estimate for the job is below the bid threshold, we will not have to go out to bid for the project. Our Architects, DiCara and Rubino, are working on getting quotes and the project will start right at the end of this school year.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- The 6th Grade Board Meeting will take place on May 20th.
- On Sunday, May 31st and Saturday, June 5th a total of eight boys will be honored as Eagle Scouts. That is the highest Rank for Boy Scouts. Mrs. Myers asked the board if a board member could attend each ceremony to present an award to each scout.
- Committee meetings will take place before the May 19th and May 20th board meetings.

COMMITTEES

- Ms. Walker will attend the Delegate Assembly on Saturday, May 16th.
- Ms. Dansky attended the New Jersey School Board Meeting held at Maggiano's last night.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Walker

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

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	April 2, 2015 Fire Drill April 27, 2015 Lock Down
Roosevelt School	April 22, 2015 Fire Drill April 29, 2015 Evacuation Drill

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

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

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

3. That the Board of Education approve tuition at \$75.00 per enrichment class for the 2015 Summer Enrichment Program.

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

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION – None

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Justin Cetro, ABA Aide, starting on or about May 11, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

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

Motion by Ms. Danahy
Seconded by Mr. Busteded

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Amanda DeLucia, ABA Aide, starting on or about June 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

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

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Gregory Kupchak, Physical Education Teacher, starting September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, BA, Step 1-2.
4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Ryan Schmid, Physical Education Teacher, starting September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, BA, Step 1-2.

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella
Seconded by Ms. Walker

5. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the retirement of Sue Meldonian, 3rd Grade Teacher, effective July 1, 2015.

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

Motion by Ms. Walker
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

6. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Christina Jennings, Part-time Spanish Teacher, effective June 30, 2015.

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

Motion by Ms. Dansky
Seconded by Ms. Danahy

7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Katie O'Brien to commence on, or about September 11, 2015, through November 4, 2015, to be followed by a State Family/Child Care leave of absence effective November 5, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
8. That the Board of Education approve the Summer Enrichment Program teacher hourly rate to be \$33.00 for summer 2015.
9. That the Board of Education approve June Karpowich, Clerical Assistant, at a stipend of \$1,250 for the Summer Enrichment 2015 Program.

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

RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION – None

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

Motion by Ms. Danahy
Seconded by Mr. Busted

1. **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.

Lindsay Solotruk	Psychologist
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2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Sara Spiegel, Region V Office Clerk, starting, May 18, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

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

FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 Proposed School Budget

Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati presented the 2015-2016 School Year Budget to the public using a power point presentation (Addendum). Dr. Ben-Dov stated the budget process is an all year process and it was started in October and ended in May this year. Among the highlights of the presentation were additional teaching staff needed in first and fifth grade and additional technology support staff and devices that are included in the budget.

Motion by Mr. Busted
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

1. That the Board of Education approve the Proposed 2015-2016 Annual School Budget total 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 \$14,308,961 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 \$181,200 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

2. WHEREAS, River Edge School District Policy and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2 (b) provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2015-2016 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2015-2016 school year at the sum of \$25,000.

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 9:40 PM made by Mr. Busteed and seconded by Mr. DiBella

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 10:15 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 10:15 PM made by Ms. Walker and seconded by Mr. DiBella

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

Patricia Salvati
Board Secretary/Business Administrator