

# RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

## Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – November 13, 2013

**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. Di Maulo called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Dansky read the Mission Statement.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were; Ms. Danksy; Ms. Di Maulo; Mr. Sim; Ms. Walker; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Trainor, Ms. Rosen, and approximately two members of the public.

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:55pm  
Mrs. Buckley arrived 8:05pm  
Mr. Busteed arrived at 8:10pm

### **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Trainor read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

### **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Review 2011-2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)  
Gary Higgins, Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

Gary Higgins of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins presented the districts audit report to the Board Members. There were no audit recommendations and he stated that the books are in very good condition. He commended the Board office for their great record keeping.

Discussion of 2013-2014 Budget Calendar

Ms. Trainor had a discussion with the board members about the 2013-2014 Budget Calendar. She explained the calendar starts in November. She has walked through the schools with the principals and had meetings with them to get their requests for what the schools need. At the November 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting Ms. Trainor and Dr. Ben-Dov will go over the Necessary Items for the 2013-2014 budget.

Discussion of District, Superintendent and Board of Education goals for the 2012-2013 school year - Alfred Annunziata from NJ School Boards Association

Dr. Ben-Dov discussed two of the Superintendents' goals: (1) Enhance Language Arts student achievement on the NJ Ask (grades 3-6) by an average of 3% based on thorough analysis of student achievement data by grade levels and subgroups and established target goals using the baseline data recorded for the 2010-2011 school year

(2) Enhance Community Relations and (3) Identify the potential uses and their associated costs of the capital reserve fund. Mr. Annunziata introduced himself to the board and they spoke about their goals for the school year. Mr. Annunziata and the Board came up with two action plans: (1) beginner's course in school negotiations and (2) identify and train negotiating team for 2014.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov thanked the entire staff for coming together beautifully and doing all that was necessary to keep things together during Hurricane Sandy. She specially thanked the community, teachers, board office, custodial staff, administrative staff, technology staff and the webmaster during the storm. There were minimal absences on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The Halloween celebrations were cancelled this year due to Hurricane Sandy. River Edge Schools had a drive for the people affected by Hurricane Sandy. Dr. Ben-Dov felt this was a valuable experience for the children to help others that are in need.
- There was one HIB Incident to report on. On Thursday, October 18, 2012 one Roosevelt 4<sup>th</sup> graders (Student A) made verbal comments to another Roosevelt 4<sup>th</sup> grader (Student B). It was investigated and found to be HIB related. The families were notified and action against Student A took place. Student A had two recess detentions, had to write a letter of apology to Student B, and had to have sessions with the Pupil Assistance Counselor.
- Professional Development Day was on held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. It was a successful day. Dr. Ben-Dov was considering cancelling the Professional Development Day and making the day a half for students but she felt a Professional Development Day was much in need.
- Dr. Ben-Dov held a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup of Coffee on Monday, November 12, 2012 at Roosevelt School.
- Our monitoring date for QSAC is Wednesday, December 12, 2012 and we are working very hard to meet demands.
- The Evaluation Committee met today. They have selected a model, Stronge Model, and it needs to be declared by December 31, 2012 to the state. Piloting the model during the current year will be discussed and implemented.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Ms. Rosen reported on the following:

- The principals thanked the teachers for coming to work on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a power outage at Cherry Hill and New Bridge Center on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 and the children were very calm and well behaved during it.
- The families of River Edge have joined NJ Relief collection efforts, instead of having Halloween festivities.

- The River Edge district has collected supplies for the Moonachie School District due to Hurricane Sandy.
- Ms. Rosen thanked the PTO for the Halloween Party on Friday, October 25, 2012. The kids had a lot of fun.
- International Day is Tuesday, November 20, 2012. Thirteen different countries will be represented.
- Professional Development Day was held on November 6, 2012 and it was very successful and the principals have gotten a lot of positive feedback from it.
- STAR Assessment in Cherry Hill and Roosevelt is almost complete and the teachers will be able to use the data to help identify and address student's areas of weaknesses.
- Report Cards will be distributed on Monday, November 26, 2012. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Rosen and Ms. Blake will attend a HIB Training session on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Trainor reported on the following:

- Ms. Trainor reported on the Review of the 2013-2014 School Year Budget Proposed Revenue. She stated that right now the projecting state aid will be identical to what it is this year. We have projected a 2% increase in the local tax levy. Ms. Trainor said we do not need to add to the total surplus appropriation for the 2013-2014 school year because we can use the funds from the 2011-2012 school year. The projection does not include an increase in the Building Bridges tuition rate. This is the third year of the agreement with the afterschool program. Ms. Trainor stated there was a 4.84% increase in the budget and it has been five years since the loss of state aid and we are finally recuperating from the loss of funding.

### **PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Di Maulo reported on the following:

- Ms. Di Maulo encouraged the board members to read the email from School Boards. She thought it was an interesting email.

### **COMMITTEES**

- Ms. Dansky asked if the River Edge District has furniture to donate to the Little Ferry District due to the damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.
- Ms. Dansky reminded the Board that Bergen County School Boards will be hosting a Bergen County Meet up Meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 in the Project Room in the New Bridge Center.
- Ms. Dansky reminded the Board there will be a Delegate Assembly Meeting on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at Mercer County Community College.
- Ms. Walker attended the Tri-District teacher evaluation committee. She stated it was a strong evaluation and it was a great collaboration.

**MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

**ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

Motion by Mr. Busted

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

that the Board of Education approve the minutes of October 17, 2012 Board Meeting.

that the Board of Education approves the staff development training as per the schedules for November 2012 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

**WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, is undergoing evaluation under NJQSAC for the 2012/13 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, *N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f)* requires participating school districts to hold a public meeting to approve the submission of the district's DPR responses and the Statement of Assurance with respect to this process; and

**WHEREAS**, the River Edge Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, have reviewed the districts DPR responses and Statement of Assurance, and hereby approves these documents; now

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the River Edge Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the attached DPRs and Statement of Assurances to the Commissioner of Educations in compliance with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 6A:30-3.2(f)*.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

Motion by Mr. Busted

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

that the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy #	Title
6142.10-Regulation 1	Technology
6142.10-Regulation 2	

4121	Substitute Teachers
1330	Use Of School Facilities

that the Board of Education approve the Revised River Edge Elementary School calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. (Addendum)

that the Board of Education approves the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	October 11, 2012 Fire Drill October 29, 2012 School Closed/Inclement Weather
Roosevelt School	October 11, 2012 Fire Drill October 22, 2012 Shooter Drill

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., authorizes the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of River Edge (hereinafter referred to as the "Borough"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is in need of a safe deposit box to securely store vital legal documents and items pertaining to the Board's operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is willing to permit the Board to keep a safe within its vault for the secure storage of vital legal documents and items pertaining to the Board's operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough shall not charge a fee to the Board for use of the vault; and

**WHEREAS**, the Uniform Shared Services Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., authorizes public entities to enter into a contract with each other to share services which the entities are empowered to provide or receive within their own jurisdictions, including services incidental to the primary purposes of any of the participating public entities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby adopts and approves the attached Shared Services Agreement between the Board and the Borough, whereby the Board may use the Borough's vault to store a safe in accordance with the terms thereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Board Secretary to execute the Shared Services Agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate same.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Shared Services Agreement shall be filed and open for public inspection at the administrative offices of the Board.

That the Board of Education approve the Superintendent Goals for the 2012-2013 school year.

That the Board of Education approve the River Edge Board of Education Goals for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Board of Education approves the budget calendar for the development of the 2013-2014 school year budget.

that the Board of Education approve the 2011-2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Corrective Action Plan. (Addendum)

that the Board of Education re-approve the Elementary Education Teacher Job Description (Addendum)

that the Board of Education re-approve the School Principal Job Description (Addendum)

that the Board of Education with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Samantha Messmer, Part-time Instructional Aide, starting, October 24, 2012 through June 30, 2012 at a maximum of 23 hours per week.

that the Board of Education approve the following individuals for the movement on the step guide based on educational credentials retroactive to September 1, 2012.

Reem Halabi	from	BA+15	to	MA
Monica Schnee	from	MA	to	MA+15

that the Board of Education rescinds the approval of Kate Arena as the Primary Project Aide for the 2012-2013 School Year.

that the Board of Education approve Maria Pepe as the Primary Project Aide for the 2012-2013 School Year.

that the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following as substitutes for the 2012-2013 school year.

Lisa Derbalian  
Rudy Cardenas  
Katelyn Gang  
Lisa Guinta  
Debra Masiello  
Sharon Sulner

that the Board of Education approve the following Renewal Contract for Valley Transportation. (Addendum)

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
1120	Nova North Emerson	\$185.68
1213	Nova North Emerson	\$125.98
1276	Bleshman	\$206.74
1277	Tenafly	\$179.67
1293	Epic	\$172.05
1303	Forum	\$189.84
1304	Villano	\$181.54

1524	Helen Smith School	\$246.76
1532	Valley H.P.OLV	\$258.82
1533	Gateway	\$149.15
1538	Washington South	\$219.34
1541	Bleshman	\$221.75
1544	Forum	\$202.89
1616	Pascack Hills HS	\$152.43
1630	Paterson School of Trade	\$101.26
1731	Hackensack Middle School	\$123.78
1742	Sage Day Mahwah	\$154.34
1857	Valley H.P. OLV	\$164.00
1858	Valley Norwood Public	\$180.50
1814	I.E.A.	\$110.36
1819	Cresskill House	\$139.24
1821	Tri-Valley @ St. Mary's	\$110.37
1830	Park Academy	\$103.14
1899	Godwin School	\$171.18
1900	ECLC	\$152.84

that the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contract for Valley Transportation. (Addendum)

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
1963	Valley H.P. Public/St. Andrews	\$167.83
1964	Brownstone	\$189.41
1968	Valley OLV	\$161.41
1993	Northern Valley Demarest	\$119.00

that the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contracts for Valley Transportation for 2011/2012. (Addendum)

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
1972	C.P. Center Fair Lawn	\$45.00
1973	Tenaflly HS	\$55.00

1974	New Milford HS	\$55.00
1962	New Milford HS	\$38.75

that the Board of Education approve the following Summer Quote Contract for Valley Transportation. (Addendum)

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q139	Tenafly MS	\$36.00

**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 to provide evaluations, direct services and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2012-2013 school year.

Jennifer Schoenbrun	Occupational Therapist
Myra Helman	Consultant
Shoshanna Dubin	Nonpublic consultant

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Whyllis Shirley Lemmer	Nonpublic consultant
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Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker

Nays: None

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

that the Board of Education convened into closed session at 10:30 PM to discuss contract negotiations.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker

Nays: None



## **RECONVENE**

Motion by Mr. Busteed

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

that the Board of Education reconvenes the regular public meeting at 11:55 PM.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim,  
Ms. Walker

Nays: None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mrs. Buckley

Seconded by Mr. Sim

that the Board of Education adjourns the regular public meeting at 11:56 PM.

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busteed, Ms. Dansky, Ms. Di Maulo, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim,  
Ms. Walker

Nays: None

Deborah Trainor

Board Secretary/Business Administrator