

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**RIVER EDGE, NEW JERSEY 07661***"Building Bright Futures Together"***Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – October 16, 2013****7:30 PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Di Maulo called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mrs. Buckley; Mr. Busted; Ms. Di Maulo; Mr. Sim; Mrs. Walker; also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Ms. Rosen, and approximately thirty five members of the public.

Mrs. Myers arrived at 7:50 PM

Ms. Dansky was absent

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Honor employees for 25 Years of Service

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the careers of Christopher Armen, Ann-Marie Calza, Susan Meldonian, and Kathleen Salvatore. She talked about the start of their careers, their hard work and dedication to the River Edge District and read some letters parents wrote about the teachers. Mrs. Heitman, Mrs. Kuruc, Ms. Kossoy and Ms. Rosen spoke about the teachers as well. They were congratulated on their 25 years of excellence in education. Flowers and an award were presented to each teacher. The teachers thanked everyone for their kind words and appreciation. Mark Jentz will be recognized at a later meeting for his 25 years of service.

Dr. Ben-Dov welcomed the new staff to the River Edge School District. Each staff member introduced themselves.

Patricia Salvati – Business Administrator
 Marisa Kossoy– Roosevelt School Principal
 Lauren DellaTorre – Roosevelt School -4th Grade
 Paul Garofano – District Instructional Technology Coach
 Mary Genneken – Cherry Hill School Library/Media Specialist
 Melissa Novick – Roosevelt School Leave Replacement – 2nd Grade
 Alexandra McNeil – Roosevelt School– 2nd Grade
 Lucia Moran – Cherry Hill School- .5 Resource Teacher
 Rita Scoccola – Cherry Hill School .5 ESL Teacher

Accept PTO Gifts for the 2012-2013 School Year

Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about the items provided to the Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School and New Bridge Center by the PTO. She is truly grateful for all that the PTO has done for the students in the schools. She thanked and commended the PTO for all of their hard work and said the students would benefit directly from them.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov spoke about technology. Teachers need to learn how to use Google for PAARC and STARS. The district is looking at creative ways to deliver training. One option that was agreed on with the REEA was to deliver training during days off and Saturdays with some remuneration. Implementation of the Chrome Books is going very well.
- A writer's workshop is being planned for Professional Day on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.
- NJ ASK results will be presented to the public at the November 13, 2013 Board Meeting
- The Nursing Plan is being submitted to the state. There is a new format for our schools to follow.
- The district web-based newsletter will hopefully be ready by the end of November. Dr. Ben-Dov is planning to have four newsletters a year. They will be posted on the website.
- Dr. Ben-Dov asked the Board Members their opinions on having a contest for the students to come up with a new name and logo for the newsletter. The board members thought it was a great idea.
- 239 Goal Surveys were completed by parents on Back to School Night. Dr. Ben-Dov is still in the process of reading them. Technology was one of the topics people were interested in pursuing as a goal.
- A lively 2nd Cup of Coffee was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. It was well attended and the two big topics to report on were technology and arrival and dismissal at Roosevelt School.

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Rosen reported on the following:

- School Visitation Day was held on Thursday, October 3, 2013. There was positive feedback and it was successful.
- Respect week was from October 7 – October 11, 2013
- Parent surveys were sent out. 200 surveys were completed in two days. The survey will be open for a month.
- On Monday, October 14, 2013 there was a half day Professional Development Day where the faculty had STAR training, our benchmark assessment tool.
- Cherry Hill's Halloween Party will be on Friday, October 25, 2013 and Roosevelt's Halloween Party will be on Friday, November 1, 2013.

BOARD SECRETARY

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Open enrollment to our health benefits will be ongoing until November 1, 2013
- Ms. Salvati has started the Budget Development Calendar for the 2014-2015 School Year. She will have a tentative calendar for the October 30th board meeting.
- Ms. Salvati has some financial concerns regarding the purchase of the Lighting Detection System at this time. It is not planned for in our budget and it is only the second month of the school year. We do not yet know what our heating bills will be or the increase in cost for our health benefits. She will be in a better position to know if funds are available later in the school year.

PRESIDENT

Ms. Di Maulo reported on the following:

- Ms. Di Maulo stated Mr. Alfred Annunziata will attend the October 30th board meeting to discuss the 2013-2014 Board Goals.

COMMITTEES

- Mr. Busted attended a Tri-District Meeting. Common Core State Standards and Student Growth Objectives were discussed at this meeting.

MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Busted

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013 Board Meeting.
2. That the Board of Education approve the staff development training as per the schedules for October 2013 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)

- WHEREAS, state of New Jersey N.J.S.A. 18A:37-29 mandates that a Week of Respect be observed beginning with the first Monday of October

WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education recognizes the importance of character education focusing on the prevention of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying as defined by N.J.S.A 18A:37-14

WHEREAS, the staff members of River Edge Schools are committed to providing age-appropriate education experiences for the River Edge students that promote respect for others and nurture an environment free if HIB

THEREFORE, the River Edge Board of Education establishes the week of October 7 - October 11, 2013 as a "Week of Respect."

- That the Board of Education approve the following fire and security drills: (Addendum)

School	Fire Drills	Security Drills
Cherry Hill School	September 13, 2013	September 17, 2013 Evacuation
Roosevelt School	September 12, 2013	September 30, 2013 Lockdown

- That the Board of Education approve the NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Statement of Assurance for the 2013-2014 school year.
- That the Board of Education accept the District Nursing Services Plan for the 2013-2014 school year.
- That the Board of Education approves the following class trip:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
10/10/13	Roosevelt	3	Sterling Mine Ogdensburg, NJ	\$770.00

CURRICULUM/EDUCATION

- That the Board of Education approve the Tri-District Language Arts Curriculum 2013 Grade 6.
- That the Board of Education approve the Tri-District Physical Education Curriculum 2013 Grades K-12.
- That the Board of Education accept the Roosevelt, New Bridge Center, and Cherry Hill Schools PTO Gifts for the school year 2012-2013. (Addendum)

PERSONNEL

- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Tara Benevento, Division of Child Permanency and Protection Liaison, for the 2013-2014 school year.
- That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Domenico DuLisse, Substitute Custodian, starting, October 21, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

3. That the Board of Education approve the submission of the following Superintendent Merit Goals to the Executive County Superintendent for the 2013 - 2014 school year.

Quantitative:

1. To increase Technology skills of students and staff by: 1) working with (the newly created position) Instructional Technology Coach to learn how to implement technology into core curriculum subjects, 2) to implement a one-on-one technology initiative of Google Chrome Books for 6th grade students, and 3) change the culture of technology use from enhancement projects to fully integrated lessons, 4) Participation in 3rd grade PARCC Field Test.

2. To implement the RTI (Response to Intervention) approach with River Edge Students in all schools with the goal of strengthening differentiation of instruction to increase academic achievement through: 1) Better use of student achievement data to inform instruction, 2) teacher training in benchmarking assessment and progress monitoring, 3) correlating of NJASK and STAR assessments to determine the relevance of the STAR benchmarking tool for progress monitoring, 4) Creating and sharing with each teacher a longitudinal achievement record for each student, 5) Designing skill-specific, instructional blocks with an “all hands on deck approach” of up to three times a week, 6) working with consultants from FDU and their graduate students to help with assessments and correlation of assessments, and 7) engaging in on-going progress monitoring of student achievement through and following 6-8 week instructional blocks.

3. To increase and enhance Early Childhood Literacy development through: 1) data collected during the first full-day kindergarten year, 2) benchmarking developed on the basis of data collection through the first year (the benchmarks are on or above CCSS expectations), 3) Administration of PALS (Phonological Assessment of Language Skills) assessment and progress monitoring, 4) Enhanced and increased vertical articulation with first grade teachers, 5) RTI support component for students in need, and 6) Enhanced push-in ESL component (the population of kindergarten students includes approximately 30% Port of Entry ESL students. Not all of these students have parental permission to participate in the formal ESL program). Based on these assessments and interventions it is expected that 60% of the all kindergarten students will meet the established benchmarks by June 2014.

Qualitative:

1. To improve communications with the River Edge Community through: 1) Goal Planning Meeting of River Edge Stakeholders, 2) A Social Media, online newsletter, 3) A series of innovative, short, informational video links on the RE website that will shed a positive light on the new educational landscape and all new initiatives.

2. To continue the reduction of bullying incidents by improving students' and parents' understanding of bullying with emphasis on the role of the role of the bystander. This will be done through 1) the development of additional programs focusing on the role of the bystander, 2) data from Community and School Climate surveys, 3) including administrators in a regular duty rotation of all non-structured activities, 4) changing the lunch schedule to limit the number of students to be supervised at all times, 5) greater inclusion of all constituencies in formal and informal school activities and reducing the isolation of all students in their school community.

4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Andi Rankin, Part time Aide, starting, October 21, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

1. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contracts for Durham School Services

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
0553	Community Lower School	\$137.57
1117	HIP @ Union Street	\$169.63
1132	Stillman Pre-School	\$123.58
1133	Stillman Pre-School	\$119.73
1523	SBJC	\$212.71
1536	Transition Center Woodbridge	\$208.37

2. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contract for First Student 1309

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2041	Valley @ Tenafly Middle School	\$192.15

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract for First Student 1309

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
Q157	Children's Therapy Center Midland Park	\$151.15

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Busteed

Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

That the Board of Education convened into closed session at 9:40 PM to discuss a Contract Matter.

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

Nays: None

RECONVENE

Motion by Ms. Walker

Seconded by Mr. Sim

That the Board of Education reconvene the regular public meeting at 10:00 PM.

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

Nays: None

ADJOURMENT

Motion by Mrs. Myers

Seconded by Mrs. Walker

That the Board of Education adjourn the regular public meeting at 10:05 PM.

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

Nays: None

Patricia Salvati

Board Secretary/Business Administrator