

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

*“Building Bright Futures Together”*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – March 19, 2014**

**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, 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. Walker read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mrs. Buckley; Mr. Busted; Ms. Dansky; Mrs. Myers; Mr. Sim; Ms. Walker. Also present were Dr. Ben-Dov, Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Rosen and approximately sixty members of the public.

Mr. DiBella arrived at 8:00 PM.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Fernarjian, Fourth Grade Roosevelt Teacher, asked a question regarding her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class trip and its approval on the agenda. Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati answered her question.

Climate Survey Presentation – Beth Rosen

Mrs. Rosen reported that this survey was conducted in the fall. The survey was taken to see where we stood as a district in terms of school climate and bullying. The district wanted to see the growth and progress from the 2011 survey. The survey was open for six weeks. Staff, parents, and grades 3-6 completed the survey online. 364 parents/guardians, 94 staff members and 593 students completed this survey. Mrs. Rosen was very pleased with the outcome. The conclusions of the survey were discussed as well as areas of strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Rosen answered all questions asked by the audience.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- The Technology Forum for parents has been re-scheduled to Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> Roosevelt will participate in a P.A.R.C.C. field test, in Language Arts, with two third grade classes.
- International Day will be held on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Teacher of the Year selection committee on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Bergen County celebration luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fiesta.
- Dr. Ben-Dov stated the new evaluation system is moving along nicely.
- Care Plus is providing 12 sessions of music therapy, free, to the Building Bridges Program from a certified music therapist.
- Nicholas Zhang, a Fifth Grader from Cherry Hill School, was the local winner of the Geography Bee and will compete at State level at Rowan College on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brown will attend the competition to support Nicholas.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Mrs. Rosen reported on the following:

- Tomorrow is the first day of spring, and Mrs. Rosen is excited the children will get more outdoor recess time.
- The NBC Book Fair was held the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful event.
- NBC will have a Penguin Assembly in the beginning of April.

### **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- Ms. Salvati stated the Board will be voting on the budget tonight. The submission of the tentative budget is due to the County by tomorrow.
- The Public Hearing on the budget will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The bid opening for the Cherry Hill Roof Replacement will be on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **PRESIDENT**

- Mrs. Myers thanked Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati for all of their hard work on the 2014 - 2015 budget. She also thanked the board for their cooperation for the last six board meetings in five weeks.

### **COMMITTEES**

There were no committees to report 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 staff development training as per the schedules for March 2014 including relevant mileage reimbursement. (Addendum)
2. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

Date	School	Grade	Destination	Cost to District
5/19/14	Cherry Hill	6	Liberty State Park/Ellis Island New York, NY	\$1043.00
5/22/14	Roosevelt	6	Liberty State Park/Ellis Island New York, NY	\$666.00
6/13/14	Roosevelt	6	Museum of Natural History New York, NY	\$876.00

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella  
Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

3. That the Board of Education approve the River Edge Elementary School Calendar for the 2014-2015 school year. (Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker  
Nays: Mr. Busted

Motion by Mrs. Buckley  
Seconded by Ms. Walker

4. That the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting.

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

Motion by Ms. Walker  
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

5. That the Board of Education approve the confidential minutes of the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting.

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

**CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** - None

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Motion by Ms. Dansky  
Seconded by Mr. Sim

1. That the Board of Education authorize the Board Secretary to advertise and seek bids for the Bathroom Renovations at Roosevelt Elementary School.

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

**FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

Motion by Mr. Sim  
Seconded by Mr. Busted

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2014 totaling \$634,474.79 including checks #36033 through #36120. Payrolls dated February 13, 2014 and February 28, 2014, totaling \$1,053,131.31 issued therefore, a copy of such warrants list be attached as part of these minutes. (Addendum)

Ayes: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, 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 2013-2014 as of January 31, 2014. (Addendum)
3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for the period ending January 31, 2014.

Further, we certify that as of January 31, 2014 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: Mrs. Buckley, Mr. Busted, Ms. Dansky, Mr. DiBella, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Sim, Ms. Walker  
Nays: None

Motion by Mr. DiBella  
Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

4. That the Board of Education approve the proposed 2014-2015 Annual School budget total \$16,094,311 for the General Fund, \$824,098 for the Special Revenue Fund, and \$1,434,239 for Debt Service.

Further, that the Board of Education authorize \$13,850,746 as General Fund Tax Levy and \$1,188,351 as Debt Service Tax Levy.

Further, that the Board of Education approve the appropriation of additional balances in the amount of \$163,899.

Further, that the River Edge Board of Education include in the proposed budget the adjustment for increases costs of health benefits in the amount of \$72,365. The additional funds are included in the base budget and will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board request the approval of a Capital Reserve Withdrawal in the amount of \$301,011. The district intends to utilize these funds to support the local share of State Project No. 4410-030-14-1002 for a roof replacement on the Cherry Hill School. This Project has been identified by the State as a Tier 1 Project and has been awarded a corresponding Grant in the amount of \$200,674.

5. 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 2014-2015 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Edge Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2013-2014 school year at the sum of \$22,000.00.

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

#### **PERSONNEL**

Motion by Mrs. Buckley  
Seconded by Ms. Walker

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Yvonne Bell, Lunch Aide, starting, March 20, 2014 through June 30, 2014.
2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Michael Albrizio, ABA Aide, starting, March 20, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

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

#### **RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Motion by Ms. Walker  
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

1. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the Community Based Instruction Schedule for the 2013-2014 school year. (Addendum)

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

## **REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

Motion by Ms. Dansky  
Seconded by Mr. Sim

1. That the Board of Education approve the bills & claims dated March 2014 totaling \$510,496.92 including checks #62217 through #62329.
2. That the Board of Education approve the following Quote Contract for First Student 1309.

<b>Route #</b>	<b>Transporter</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>
Q170	Bleshman School	\$196.25

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

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Joe Hunter and Christine O'Keefe, Presidents of the REEA, read a positive letter regarding Marisa Kossoy, Roosevelt Principal, and her performance as principal. The board received a copy of this letter.

Vicky Bowman, parent, asked questions regarding the enrollment for next year's Cherry Hill School 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. She presented suggestions to the board for the enrollment dilemma.

Rose Short, parent, expressed her concern about the class size numbers for next year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Kimmel Walfall, parent, asked the board when will the public have answers on the enrollment issue.

Cara O' Donnell, parent, asked the board if there is a budget plan for teachers and class sizes for next year.

Brian Antariano, parent, offered a suggestion for the enrollment situation for next year.

Claudia Rebella, parent, asked a question regarding a Demographic Study.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 9:05 PM made by Mr. DiBella and seconded by Mr. Busteed

Motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:40 PM made by Ms. Dansky and seconded by Ms. Walker

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:00 PM made by Mr. DiBella and seconded by Mrs. Buckley

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

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator