

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

*"Building Bright Futures Together"*

**Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting – May 7, 2014 – 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**

Mrs. Myers called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Mr. Busted read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

Ms. Salvati read the Open Public Meeting Act Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Busted  
Seconded by Mr. Sim

That the Board of Education convene into closed session at 7:40 PM to discuss a Personnel Matter.

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

**RECONVENE**

Motion by Ms. Dansky  
Seconded by Ms. Walker

That the Board of Education reconvene the regular public meeting at 8:05 PM.

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

## **SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Comments on Agenda Items-None

Public Hearing on the 2014-2015 Proposed School Budget

Dr. Ben-Dov and Ms. Salvati presented the 2014-2015 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. There has been many changes in the approval process this year. Among the highlights of the presentation were "What's New for 2014-2015" which provides funding for PARCC, two laptop carts and instructional technology. An additional part-time basic skills teacher will be hired for the district. A new roof will be installed on Cherry Hill School, partially funded by State Grant.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Ben-Dov reported on the following:

- Dr. Ben-Dov stated the district is in the process of completing its first year of the STRONGE Evaluation System.
- The administrators are very busy with staffing, placement decisions, and hiring new teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.
- The Cherry Hill and Roosevelt Art Shows took place on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and were well attended.
- Arbor Day Celebrations took place on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> in both schools.
- The River Edge Fun Run was held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Much community spirit was experienced with teachers and administrators participating.
- The Technology Forum was held on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and the staff did a great job with the presentation.
- The Tri-District Curriculum office is offering an excel workshop. The workshop is now available for teachers to sign up. This was recommended by the Curriculum Committee.
- The district needs to change its registration policy by Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, as we should not make it mandatory to present a photo I.D. The district is working on changing its website.

### **PRINCIPAL**

Ms. Kossoy reported on the following:

- Ms. Kossoy read her April Bulletin News Letter to the Board Members.
- The Roosevelt Plant Sale will be held on Thursday, May 8th
- NJ ASK Testing will take place for the next two weeks
- REEF presents the Harlem Wizards vs the REEF Rebels at River Dell High School on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- Open House and Science Celebrations is scheduled for Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

Ms. Salvati reported on the following:

- On tonight's agenda there is a motion to award the bid for the Roof Replacement Project at Cherry Hill School and the project is to start on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Roosevelt's Tricky Tray was on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Florentine Garden. Ms. Salvati said it was a wonderful event and she had a great time.

## **PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Myers reported on the following:

- Mrs. Myers spoke to Mr. Annunizata and learned that our board certification is about to expire. She asked the board if they would like to re-certify again. The board agreed to re-visit this topic.

## **COMMITTEES**

- Ms. Dansky stated the Policy Committee met and read the first readings of the policies and the committee decided the Non-Resident Policy needs to be re-scheduled.
- Ms. Walker will attend the Delegate Assembly on Saturday, May 17, 2014.
- Mr. Sim attended the New Jersey School Boards Meeting on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. They spoke about Social Media and Technology.

## **MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON**

### **ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

Motion By Mr. Busteed  
Seconded By Mr. DiBella

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

<b>School</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Cherry Hill School	April 8, 2014 Fire Drill April 28, 2014 Lockdown Drill
Roosevelt School	April 11, 2014 Fire Drill April 28, 2014 Evacuation Drill

2. That the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policies:

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Title</b>
6147.1	Evaluation of Individual Student Performances
5141	Health

6145	Extracurricular Activities
5145.4	Equal Employment Opportunity
4111	Recruitment, Selection and Hiring
5141.6	School Clearance Following Crisis Situation

3. That the Board of Education approve the following class trips:

Date	School	Grades	Destination	Cost to District
6/5/14	Cherry Hill and Roosevelt	4-5-6 Band	Emerson Jr./Sr. High School Emerson, NJ	\$65.00

4. WHEREAS, state and local governments and school districts encourage and promote healthy and active lifestyles for students and residents of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems and being able to walk or bike to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and

WHEREAS, private auto transportation to nearby schools contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Mayor's Wellness Program strives to inform, assist, inspire, foster and encourage children and their parents to walk and bicycle safely to and from school in an effort to boost physical activity and exercise; and

WHEREAS, this commemoration shall provide an opportunity for students and parents in River Edge to walk and bicycle safely to and from school with a strong effort to promote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles and create safe environmental conditions for students and residents to walk and bike to school and around town;

NOW, THEREFORE, the River Edge Board of Education designates the week of May 19 - May 23, 2014 as Walk and Bike to School Week.

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

**CURRICULUM/EDUCATION** – None

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Motion by Mr. DiBella  
Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

1. WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") advertised for bids for the Roof Replacement at Cherry Hill Elementary School, DOE

Project #4410-030-14-1002 and SDA Project #4410-030-14-G1GR (hereinafter referred to as the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2014, the Board received three (3) bids for the project, as reflected on the attached bid tabulation sheet; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bid was submitted by Laumar Roofing Co., Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Laumar") with a base bid in the amount of \$364,000.00 together with Alternate No. 1, in the amount of \$17,000.00, for a total contract price of \$381,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Laumar is responsive in all material respects and the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Project to Laumar;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby awards the bid for the Roof Replacement at Cherry Hill Elementary School to Laumar Roofing Co., Inc., in the total contract sum of \$381,000.00, representing a base bid in the amount of \$364,000.00 together with Alternate No. 1, in the amount of \$17,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed A-101-Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor and A-201-General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft an agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for this project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

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

### **FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS**

Motion by Mrs. Buckley  
Seconded by Ms. Walker

1. 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 from the current year budget.

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.

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 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 2014-2015 school year at the sum of \$25,000.00, for all staff and board members, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

3. That the Board of Education accept the list of donations in memory of Erika Steinbauer for the Building Bridges Program in the amount of \$50.00. (List is on file in the Board Office)

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

Motion by Ms. Walker  
Seconded by Ms. Dansky

4. That the Board of Education accept the donation of 100 Chromebooks by the Roosevelt PTO valued at approximately \$32,000.00.

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

## **PERSONNEL**

Motion by Ms. Dansky  
Seconded by Mr. Sim

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent approve Karen Cabany, Part-time Aide, from April 29, 2014 to June 30, 2014.
2. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Karla Idunate, Spanish Teacher, effective June 30, 2014.

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

Motion by Mr. Busteed  
Seconded by Mr. DiBella

3. **WHEREAS** on October 16, 2013, the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") approved merit action plans for the Superintendent for the 2013-2014 school year consisting of three (3) quantitative and two (2) qualitative

merit criteria and submitted same to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A: 23A-3.1(e) 10-11 (hereinafter referred to as "Merit Bonus Goals"); and

**WHEREAS**, on or about November 1, 2013, the Executive County Superintendent approved said Merit Bonus Goals, thereby authorizing the Board to evaluate and award merit bonus increases to the Superintendent upon achievement of each objective; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has evaluated the Superintendent's performance and determined that she achieved the objective to increase technology skills of students and staff by: 1) working with the new Instructional Technology coach to learn how to implement technology into core curriculum subjects, 2) to implement a one-on-one technology initiative of Google Chromebooks for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, and 3) change the culture of technology use from enhancement projects to fully integrated lessons, 4) participation in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade PARCC field test, entitling her to a quantitative merit bonus of 3.33% of her annual salary in the amount of \$5161.50; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has evaluated the Superintendent's performance and determined that she achieved the objective 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 NJ ASK 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 correction of assessments, and 7) engaging in on-going progress monitoring of student achievement through and following 6-8 week instructional blocks, thereby entitling her to a quantitative merit bonus of 3.33% of her annual salary in the amount of \$5,161.50; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has evaluated the Superintendent's performance and determined that she achieved the objective requiring that she improve communications with the River Edge Community through: 1) Goal planning meeting of River Edge stakeholders, 2) a social media, on-line newsletter, 3) a series of innovative, short informational video links on the RE website that shed a positive light on the new educational landscape and all new initiatives, thereby entitling her to a qualitative merit bonus of 2.5% of her annual salary in the amount of \$3,875; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has evaluated the Superintendent's performance and determined that she achieved the objective to improve students' and parents' understanding of bullying with emphasis on the role of the bystander. This was 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, thereby entitling her to a qualitative merit bonus of 2.5% of her annual salary in the amount of \$3,875; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves the aforementioned merit bonus for the 2013-2014 school year subject to approval by the Executive County Superintendent that the quantitative and qualitative merit criteria for each of the Board assessed objective have been satisfied for the payment of such merit bonus.

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

Motion by Mr. DiBella  
Seconded by Mrs. Buckley

4. **WHEREAS**, on or about May 6, 2014 an employee of the River Edge Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), whose name is on file with the Superintendent of Schools' Office, was notified by the Superintendent of Schools that said employee was suspended with pay pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:25-6.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board shall continue the suspension of the employee with pay pending a further investigation by the Superintendent of Schools and, thereafter, a determination by the Board as to what further action, if any, shall be taken.

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

**RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION** – None

**REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION**

Motion by Mr. Sim  
Seconded by Mr. Busteed

1. RESOLVED: that the River Edge Board of Education desires to enter into shared services agreements and will participate as a full member of the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education for the 2014-2015 school year; does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V Bylaws; designates Dr. Tova Ben-Dov, Superintendent, as its representative to Region V; and empowers her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interests in Region V.

The Board further approves the joint bidding and transportation agreements for all River Edge students who are transported through Region V; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services agreement; including but not limited to student evaluations, student therapies and other student support services; The Board further approves the joint bidding and/or shared services for non public school services.

2. That the Board of Education approve the 2014-2015 Joint Transportation Agreement between Region V (Host) and Region III (Joiner).
3. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contract for Destiny 23

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2071	New Alliance Academy	\$130.00

4. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contracts for Pro Trans School Transportation

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2072	S.B. Lodi/High Point	\$120.00
2074	Anna Scott/YCS Ft. Lee	\$130.00



5. That the Board of Education approve the following Bid Contracts for First Student 1309

Route #	Transporter	Per Diem
2075	Bleshman School	\$196.25
2076	Bleshman/CTC Midland Park	\$220.10

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

Motion by Mr. Busted  
 Seconded by Mr. DiBella

6. **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 and Translators to provide evaluations, direct services and consultation, to non-public and public schools for member districts upon request for the 2013-2014 school year.

Lisa McKay	Inservice Provider Consultant
Christina M. DiBella Jasper	Inservice Provider Consultant
Sara Tarzik	Nonpublic Consultant
Norma Reyes	Psychologist

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

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Suzanne Mullen, Parent, asked a question regarding the 2014- 2015 Budget. Ms. Salvati answered her question.

Kathleen DeSavino, Parent, asked a question regarding the P.A.R.C.C. Assessment test and Dr. Ben-Dov answered her question.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to convene the Closed Session at 9:10 PM made by Mr. Busted and seconded by Ms. Dansky

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

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 10:20 PM made by Ms. Walker and seconded by  
Mr. Busteed

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

Patricia Salvati  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator