REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 19, 2022

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present in-person: Mrs. Curelaru, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Tomasini.

Mrs. Helbourg was present virtually at 7:30 PM.

Also present were Mr. Watson, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Higgins, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. DeCarlo, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meeting Act." No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mrs. Helbourg, seconded by Mrs. Shields to go into closed session at 6:05 PM.

All present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru that the closed session meeting stands adjourned at 7:37 PM.

All present voting yes, motion so carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:37 PM. Present were approximately 5 visitors and no members of the press.

Mrs. Mezik reopened the regular business meeting of the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION - SPECIAL EDUCATION – *Presented by Mrs. Lewis and Ms. Meo*

PRESENTATION - TEST SCORES – *Presented by Mr. Higgins*

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARD VACANCY
Mrs. Mezik announced that there were four (4) applications for the board vacancy position. However, Mr. Maclay withdrew his name for consideration. The interviews were conducted in the order in which the Business Office received letter of intent.

- Megan Lukany
- Justin Norman
- Andrew Forst

Mrs. Mezik thanked the candidates for their interest in the board seat and noted that because it is an appointed position, the candidate will only serve for a year and may choose to run again.

Mrs. Smith thanked the candidates for their interest and the service to the community. Noting that each individual candidate may bring something different to the table.

Mr. Tomasini expressed his appreciation to candidates for stepping up in service for the children.

Mrs. Helbourg also thanked the candidates for taking interest and volunteering for the benefit of district's children. Encouraged the public to continue to have interest in serving Rockaway Township Board of Education.

Election of Board Member

Nomination for Board Member:
Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to open nominations.
Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to nominate Mrs. Lukany as Board Member.

No other nominations were made.

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to close nominations.
Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Mrs. Mezik, Board President, called for a vote.
Roll Call Vote on nomination of Mrs. Lukany for Board Member, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Board Secretary to announce results of election.
Mrs. DeCarlo announced that Mrs. Lukany was elected a one-year seat on the Rockaway Township Board of Education.

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the election results.
Roll Call Vote for Mrs. Lukany for elected Board Member, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Motion by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to open the public session of the meeting.
Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

- Member of the community #1, member of the RTEA, congratulated the reelected Board members and the new leadership team. Raised concern about finding a long-term Superintendent. Noted that the district has had eleven Superintendents since the member has been president of the RTEA. Requested that stakeholders be included early on in the process of the Superintendent search. Noting that the district has made significant changes in the last few years with significant investments into professional development and materials. The RTEA would like to see the new Superintendent work hand-in-hand in continuing RTEA's initiatives to provide the best education for the district's students.
- Member of the community #2, member of the RTEA, questioned how the new Superintendent will work to support the stakeholders of the district and address the following concerns:
    - Support of pending/new initiatives
    - Large number of students moving into the district meanwhile a limited staff to support students' learning
    - Maintaining labor relations with the RTEA
- RTEA is looking to have a positive relationship Stakeholder-Superintendent relationship that values collaboration, dialogue, and relationship-building. Noted that there are far more advantages to including representation from all stakeholders by being open and transparent throughout the entire Superintendent search and retention process. Shared that the district deserves a leader that is the right fit for Rockaway Township BOE including long-term consistency.

Motion by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to close the public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communication since the last board meeting:

Megan Lukany	Board Vacancy
Justin A. Norman	Board Vacancy
Andrew J. Forst	Board Vacancy
Andrew Maclay	Board Vacancy

Mr. Keever congratulated Mrs. Lukany for her appointment as Board Member. Additionally, explained the process that follows of being sworn in.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the minutes of January 05, 2022.

Roll Call Vote on above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

III. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The following information was presented by the Interim Superintendent in his report:

Good Evening Everyone,

I want to begin by thanking our presenters this evening. There is no doubt that this district continues to support our students in many ways. As we heard tonight, Special Education continues to implement the recommendations from Public Consulting Group in order to be a more inclusive district and our Assistant Superintendent's presentation of Start Strong which provided actionable data in September and October that was used by our principals and teachers in grade-level and subject area meetings to address individual student concerns while focusing instruction across a grade level. It also provided actionable data for curriculum planning purposes by showing larger areas of concern and strength. Thank you Melissa, Maria, Patrick, and our teachers and support staff.

On another note, I'm encouraged with our attendance numbers for both staff and students this week and hope in-person instruction is here to stay. However, once again I caution everyone that disruptions may happen on various levels that would be predicated on attendance numbers as we go forward with the school year.

Thank you.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shields – Operations Committee meeting set up for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 4PM at the Central Office.
Mrs. Smith – Education Committee meeting set up for Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 4:15PM at the Central Office.

V. RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

The Interim Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following personnel:

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following personnel recommendations.

A.	Appointment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Asst.	Rosa Cabrera	$18.93 p/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	1/20/22	6/30/22	1:1 Kindergarten Class 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk.
2.	Temporary Stipend	Abraham Elder	$700.00 p/month	CO	2/1/22	*2/28/22 On or before	*Extended Additional responsibilities pending new hire
3.	PT Staff Asst.	Joseph Illenye	$18.93 p/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	1/20/22	6/30/22	1:1 per student IEP 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. Replacing R. Calabria
4.	Temporary Stipend	Michael LaFranca	$1,500.00 p/month	CO	2/1/22	*2/28/22 On or before	*Extended Additional responsibilities pending new hire
5.	Temporary Stipend	Monica Maasin	$800.00 p/month	CO	2/1/22	*2/15/22 On or before	*Extended Additional responsibilities pending new hire
6.	Virtual Home Instructor	Nehrin Makhlouf	Per the contracted rate	DIST.	1/4/22	6/30/22	
7.	PT Staff Asst.	Michelle Mayor	$18.93 p/hr. (Step 1)	CMS	1/20/22	6/30/22	1:1 per the student IEP 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk.

8.	LEAD Assistant Coordinator	Katherine Rasmussen	$600.00		21-22 School Year		Stipend
9.	Floater Substitute	Paul Rottmann	$185.00	SB	1/20/22	6/30/22	
10.	LEAD Coordinator	Amy Semeniuk	$600.00		21-22 School Year		Stipend
11.	Leave Replacement Grade 5 Teacher	Kristen Shinnick	$59,710.00 BA+15 (Step 2) (Prorated)	BW	1/18/22	2/18/22	Replacing: Employee 4948
12.	Special Ed. Math Teacher Grade 6-8	Jennifer Slater	$70,245.00 MA (Step 9)	CMS	8/31/22	6/30/23	Replacing: J. Caccavale Pending: Physical/Mantoux
13.	Leave Replacement FT Resource Room Teacher	Madison Ustupski	$62,150.00 MA (Step 1) (Prorated)	CAD	3/7/22	6/30/22	Replacing: K. Chierici
14.	After School Programs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	21-22 School Year		Theatre

B. Leave of Absence

	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.		5081			1/3/22 1/17/22	1/14/22 2/7/22	With Pay Without Pay Return: 2/8/22
2.	Grade 5 Teacher	Employee 4948		BW	1/18/22	2/18/22	With Pay Return: 2/22/22
3.	FT Resource Room Teacher	Kyleigh Chierici		CAD	3/7/22	6/30/22	Without Pay Extended LOA Return: 8/31/22
4.	Academic Intervention	Nicole Gillan		CAD	4/4/22 5/30/22	5/27/22 10/21/22	With Pay Without Pay under the 12 wk. NJFLA Return: 10/24/22
5.	FT Spanish Teacher	Amie Hyman		CMS	2/3/22	2/18/22	Rescind Without Pay Return: 2/22/22
6.	FT Bus Monitor	Beth Ann Massey		TRANS.	12/10/21	12/17/21	With Pay Return: 1/3/22
7.	Bus Driver	Daniel Tidridge		TRANS.	12/15/21	12/23/21	With Pay Extended LOA Return: 1/3/22

C. Resign/Retire

	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Grade 5 Teacher	Employee 4948		BW	7/1/22		Retire
2.	PT Staff Asst.	Rachel Barrow		DBO	1/7/22		Resignation 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk.
3.	Special Education Resource Room Teacher	Anne Ecke		CMS	7/1/22		Retire

4.	PT Staff Asst.	Katarzyna Lekawski		CMS	1/17/22		Resignation 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. General Ed. Program
5.	Technology Help Desk Specialist	Monica Maasin		CO	2/15/22		Resignation
6.	Special Education Resource Room Teacher	Margaret Newman		CMS	7/1/22		Retire
7.	Maintenance Worker	Michael Salvatore		MAINT.	1/31/22		Revised Resignation due to deferred retirement
8.	Floater Substitute	Alexa Wyszkowski		KDM	1/21/22		Resignation

D.	Salary Adjustment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Bus Driver	Carolyn Monga	From: $39,067.00 To: $42,232.00 (Prorated)	TRANS.	1/3/22	6/30/22	Route change

E.	Substitute Teacher					
	Position	**Name**	**Level**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute	Rachael Bakunas	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	Montclair University, NJ (BA) Pending: Physical/Mantoux
2.	Substitute	Jemalie Barrios	Nurse	1/20/22	6/30/22	Makati Medical Center College, Philippines (BA)
3.	Substitute	Brielle Beites	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	Montclair State University, NJ (BA) Pending: Physical/Mantoux and other relevant paperwork
4.	Substitute	Daniel Boylan	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	New Jersey Institute of Technology, NJ (MA)
5.	Substitute	Rosa Cabrera	State	1/20/22	6/30/22	Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ (MA)
6.	Substitute	Rasha Daoud	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	University of Technology, Iraq (BA)
7.	Substitute	Magdalena Grzyb	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	Montclair State University, NJ (BA) Pending: Physical/Mantoux
8.	Substitute	Jacqueline Hendershot Sapio	State	1/20/22	6/30/22	Montclair State University, NJ (MA)
9.	Substitute	Joseph Illenye	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	West Virginia University, NJ (MA)
10.	Substitute	Patricia MacDonald	State	1/20/22	6/30/22	Montclair State University, NJ (BA)
11.	Substitute	Mara Russo	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	Kean University, NJ (BA) Pending: Physical/Mantoux
12.	Substitute	Jennifer Slater	State	1/20/22	6/30/22	American College of Education, IN (MA) Pending: Physical/Mantoux
13.	Substitute	Patrik Wolf	County	1/20/22	6/30/22	University of NY at Oswego, NY (BA)

F.	Staff Assistant Coverage Rate – Approve the increase of the daily rate for the Staff Assistants working extra shifts, effective January 3, 2022 – March 31, 2022	
Category	Daily Rate Increase From	Daily Rate Increase To
Staff Assistant Coverage	$104.00	$125.00

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

B. HIB Resolution

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mr. Tomasini to approve the HIB determination.

HIB Resolution

1. **WHEREAS,** the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents: #2021-19 8015 unconfirmed, #2021-20 7973 unconfirmed, #2021-21 7998 confirmed, #2021-22 7979 unconfirmed, #2021-23 7980 unconfirmed, #2021-24 7984 unconfirmed, #2021-25 7985 unconfirmed, #2021-26 7987 unconfirmed, #2021-27 7718 unconfirmed, #2021-28 7719 unconfirmed and the investigations which were conducted following these complaints; and

   WHEREAS the Board of Education was advised of any consequences and /or remedial measures related to these matters as well as the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the results of these investigations; and

   THEREFORE, BE IT Resolved that the Board of Education votes to affirm the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB cases:

   #2021-19 8015 unconfirmed, #2021-20 7973 unconfirmed, #2021-21 7998 confirmed, #2021-22 7979 unconfirmed, #2021-23 7980 unconfirmed, #2021-24 7984 unconfirmed, #2021-25 7985 unconfirmed, #2021-26 7987 unconfirmed, #2021-27 7718 unconfirmed, #2021-28 7719 unconfirmed

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Smith abstained, all present remaining voting yes, motion so carried.

HIB current investigations

Mr. Watson – Stated the following HIB current investigations: # 2021-29 8019 and 2021-30 8020

C. Education

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Motion to approve the district's ELL Three-Year Plan and its submission to the State of New Jersey for approval.

2. Approve William Fanslau, a student at Montclair State University, enrolled in a Psychology Graduate Program, to continue interning with Erika Becker, during the spring 2022 semester.

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

D. Special Education

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following special education recommendations.

Out of District Placements – SY 2021-2022

1. Authorize the following out-of-district placement for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#1915	Cornerstone Day School	Cranford	**$43,291.46 (prorated for 106 days)**

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

E. Administration

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following administrative recommendations.

Organizational Chart

1. Motion to approve the revised Rockaway Township Board of Education organizational chart *(as per attached).*

Memorandum of Agreement - Salary Guides

2. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement and Salary Guides between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Rockaway Township Education Association for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Document on file in Central Office.

Anticipated Facility Use – Dual Use/Change of Use/Toilet Waiver of District Schools

3. Motion to approve the submission of applications for 'Anticipated Facility Use – Dual Use/Change of Use/Toilet Waiver' rooms to the Executive County Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year for the following classroom:

School	Type of Use	Room#	Description
Birchwood Elementary School	Dual Use	RM103	Pre-K - Grade 5 Speech Room (shared teaching space)

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Smith to table Item 3 - Anticipated Facility Use – Dual Use/Change of Use/Toilet Waiver of District Schools.

Mr. Tomasini asked whether if Item 3 were to be tabled, would exclude students from using the needed room for speech sessions.

Mrs. Curelaru noted that she would like to table Item 3 until additional information/insight is shared.

Mr. Watson assured Mr. Tomasini that students will continue to have speech sessions in the said room and that the Anticipated Facility Use – Dual Use/Change of Use/Toilet Waiver of District Schools application was a formality to be documented and sent to the County.

Roll Call vote to table Item 3, Mrs. Curelaru and Mrs. Smith voting yes, all remaining present, voting no. Motion to table Item 3 did not carry.

Mrs. Mezik noted to name Board Members alphabetically on the Organizational Chart.

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Curelaru and Mrs. Smith, voting yes to Items 1 and 2, and voting no to Item 3, all remaining present, voting yes to all three items under administration, motion so carried.

F. Finance

Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following finance recommendations.

Mrs. Shields noted that she signed the district bills.

Travel

1. **Be It Resolved** in accordance with Board Policy 6471 the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the attached travel expenses as they promote the delivery of instruction, critical to the instructional needs of the district **and/or further the efficient operations of the district (see attached).**

   Be It Further Resolved that the travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and is directly related to, and within, the scope of the current responsibilities for district employees and the district's Professional Development Plan.

Financials

2. **Be It Resolved** that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Preliminary Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, and Report of the Treasurer, for the period ending in December 31, 2021.

   Be It Further Resolved that this Budget does not include any unapproved appropriations or monies.

Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education acknowledges that Rachel DeCarlo, Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)(3) and (4), I, Rachel DeCarlo, Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending December 31, 2021.

Authorize December 2021 account transfers as submitted.

Bills

3. Authorize payment of the following as approved by the Finance Committee:

A	January	Cafeteria	$70,387.42
B	December	Student Activities	$31.44
	January	Student Activities	$300.00
C	January	After-School Program	$8,495.05
D	January	School District Bills	$4,420,674.30

IDEA Grant Submission FY2021-2022 Amendment

4. Approve the submission of the Rockaway Township 27-4490 IDEA Grant FY21-22 Amendment to add funds: IDEA Preschool of $33,574.00 from account #20-251-100-560-50-000 and IDEA Basic $576,149.00 from account# 20-250-100-560-50-000 for other purchased services (tuition). Grant amounting to $609,903.00.

ESEA Grant Submission FY2021-2022 Amendment

5. Approve the submission of the ESEA FY 21-22 Grant Amendment to add carry over to all Titles and adjust program in Title III Imm.

Title I	$142,232.00	Rockaway Twp - $140,938 Non-public - $1,294.00
Title I SIA	$16,156.00	
Title IIA	$57,525.00	Rockaway Twp - $57,450.00 Non-public - $75.00
Title III	$47,599.00	Rockaway Twp - $12,575.00 Rockaway Borough - $5,908.00 Morris Plains - $3,413.00 Denville - $18,538.00 Glen Ridge - $1,199.00 Open - $5,966.00
Title III Imm	$8,303.00	
Title IV	$17,083.00	Rockaway Twp - $17,061.00 Non-public - $22.00

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business – NONE

New Business

Mrs. Helbourg – Congratulated the Negotiations Committee and the RTEA for coming to an agreement of the Memorandum of Agreement for a salary guide.

Mrs. Shields – Questioned when the Preschool Kindergarten registration will open.

Mr. Higgins – Noted that Preschool Kindergarten registration will be communicated via announcements/blast to the community once it is open.

Mr. Higgins – Shared that an email was sent out to parents of students in grades four through eight, directions on how to access the individual score reports for Start Strong that will be released at 4PM, January 20, 2022 through the Genesis Parent Portal.

Mrs. Smith – Shared that there will be a 2-hour delay for schools within the district.

Mr. Tomasini – Thanked Mrs. Lewis for her special education presentation. Encouraged to get the presentation be uploaded onto the Rockaway Township Board of Education website.

Mrs. Mezik – Thanked Mr. Higgins for the data presentation. Thanked Mrs. Lewis and Ms. Meo for your special education presentation, noting that a strong special education program is crucial to ensuring our students receive the best.

No Public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mr. Tomasini that the meeting stand adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel DeCarlo
Business Administrator/Board Secretary